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# SPASTICS NEWS

The magazine of the Spastics Society

March 1966, Vol. XII, No. 3, Price Sixpence. Editor: Oliver Beckett

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### Front Cover Picture:

A charming snap of Miss Carole Jackson, 20-year-old 'Miss Australia', who made friends with many young spastics when she visited the White Lodge centre, Chertsey last year. Carole spent a few weeks in England as part of a world tour, her prize for winning the title. The 'Miss Australia' competition is sponsored by the Australian Cerebral Palsy Association and Carole, like the other contestants, had to raise at least £50 for spastics as a condition of entry. A newly-elected 'Miss Australia' will be in this country later in the year and it is hoped that she will be calling at other Spastic Society Centres.

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I JOINED THE STAFF of Coombe Farm in 1963 to give Further Education Classes, and as these classes were optional, I was very pleased when 20 of the 45 residents turned up on the first day of term. Having worked with my students for three months, I realised it was difficult for both the class and myself to continue working without any particular goal or examinations. The normal student is encouraged and stimulated by the competitive class spirit and general educational system, but for the heavily handicapped person there

fiction. Every student started with the same basic plot, that of a scientist experimenting in his laboratory in the year 1999 with a gas that would take him out into Time and Space without the use of machinery. In one of his travels Doctor Lines, played by Stuart Simms, lands on a planet where men, the Reds, and women, the Blues, have separated because they cannot live peacefully together. They both have their own birth machine and children can be produced by the turn of a dial. By the end of the play the scientist has managed to

# Producing Plays for Spastics

by  
Esther Weatherill



**MAKING UP:** Mr. W. T. Bowyer looks on while Mrs. Bolton (left), the occupational therapist makes up Ann Pearce, and Mr. Oddy, the speech therapist, makes Vincent Humphreys look suitably oriental. Brenda Smith is in the background

is nothing. Eventually I had an idea which I hoped would not only provide a stimulus and goal for the students, but would give entertainment and enjoyment to their friends and relations.

At the Centre there is a stage with curtains, etc. built into one end of the gymnasium. Every year, at their annual new year party, the residents like to put on some form of entertainment for their guests. Having seen one of these shows I talked to my students about the possibility of their acting and performing a full length play. They were really delighted with the idea but it was only when they began to search for suitable plays that they found there was hardly any material to choose from. As they had already studied play construction and stage techniques with me in the class room, I suggested that we might write our own play. They were most enthusiastic and in January everybody attempted to produce a script, even if it had first to be dictated to somebody else. From all the scripts that were submitted and in particular from those of Victor Hancox and Roy Chapman, I compiled the final play.

We wanted to have authentic reasons for using wheelchairs and with this in mind we decided that our play should be about science

persuade both sides to reunite, thus creating a 'Purple Planet', as we called our play.

During one scene the doctor visits a nursery where he sees children that have just been born and he is surprised to find that they are fully grown and that they mature by growing from a lying position to a sitting position and the development of their speech. Because of the nature of the scene we were able to use some of the really heavily handicapped students and so everyone had a part.

It took us much longer than originally planned to write the scripts and when we were ready to start rehearsing we found that some of the parts were too long for the residents to learn. The only way of ensuring a good performance on the night was to record the speeches and mime the actions. The play was slightly revised so that the scenes in the laboratory were acted 'live' and the travel scenes were taped and could have been interpreted as dream sequences.

It was not until I came to record the speeches that I realised what I had undertaken! It is very difficult to keep four or five people perfectly still, so that no background noises are picked up by the tape-recorder and still more difficult to stop the outside noises of the Centre penetrating into the room. It

also took the students quite some time to lose their self-consciousness and regard the microphone as a friend rather than an enemy.

In the end we developed a technique which, although laborious and slow, was in the long run the most satisfactory. I used to read a sentence to the actor or actress, who would repeat it, then when we were satisfied that the line was known we would begin to record, getting as much expression as possible into the part. Sometimes, because the student had trouble with his speech, we could only tape one or two words at a time. It took us 54 hours in all to record and after that there were many more hours of work to be done in editing, fitting in sound effects and music.

I am very fortunate in having a husband who enjoys playing around with sounds and effects and although we had to listen to the voices of the Coombe Farm Residents at home, every evening and most weekends, by the end of October we had a completed tape and were ready to begin rehearsals.

As the night of the party came nearer everyone at the Centre started to help. The Occupational Therapy Department made all the costumes, props and masks, the physiotherapy and speech therapy departments took an active interest in any problems, and house-parents and other residents sat in on rehearsals so that the cast could get used to an audience.

On the night of the performance the activities backstage were planned and rehearsed as strictly as for a military tattoo. We had 20 in the cast, and we needed as many capable helpers to lift people on and off the stage, wheelchairs up and down the ramp, release the CO<sub>2</sub> used as cloud effect, change scenery and set props. The final production was such a success we were asked to give a repeat performance the following week for friends and the general public.

After the show it was most important to have some further stimulus ready and waiting to keep the students' interest alive.

It would have been too much to have expected them to write more plays immediately, so this year I have written the play myself. 'All in the Mind', however sets out to be more than just a play. When writing it I wanted it to be a vehicle for the students self-expression, yet sufficiently interesting to entertain an audience. I also wanted to link the play with work that could be done in class. By choosing a handicapped girl as my heroine I hoped that the play would come within the scope of my students and that they would be able to use many of their own experiences when interpreting their parts.

(Continued overleaf)

## THE ACTORS IN REHEARSAL



(L. to R.): Margaret Fensom plays a nurse, Stuart Sims who plays the Producer, and Jane Thomas, Teresa Hancy, Victor Hancox, and the Author's back view!—Mrs. Weatherill

## 'An Exhilarating Experience'

Mrs. Weatherill's Production reviewed by Miss H. Lister

IT IS ALWAYS EXHILARATING to see the nearly impossible attempted and achieved, and all the more so when the 'impossibilities' include such heavy physical handicaps as those of the Coombe Farm residents. This production was an achievement full of courage and, despite its elements of fantasy, full of a sense of reality and purpose. The success is a great tribute to all who took part—the actors, the author and producer, Mrs. Weatherill, and many who helped them.

It is important to realise that the play was created specifically for the actual performers. Their physical disabilities were not disregarded but positively used as the basis of the plot, and the complete naturalness and freedom from self-consciousness of all the actors was admirable and impressive. There cannot be many plays—perhaps none—which can be acted by players handicapped in both movement and, in many cases speech; and this play shows the way to what can be done in 'purpose-made' drama for such a cast.

'All in the Mind' is a play within a play. A young spastic girl, Carol, is longing for scope—for a wider future—even for a wheelchair. A play is in prospect, and writer and producer are in the throes of the struggle to

get it written and staged. Meanwhile Carol drifts off to sleep, and is visited by two opposite incarnations of herself; Grace, who represents goodness, effort, hope, and Dumpy, standing for the bad, for despair and rejection. They argue, and while Carol is beginning to picture the career she might have she sees herself working in an Old People's Home, first in the character of a kind and patient young nurse, tending some grumpy and eccentric old men, and second as a sharp-tongued and unkindly nurse, domineering over a group of pathetic and exasperating old ladies.

### Good and Bad Points

Carol feels that both the good and the bad in herself are exaggerating their points of view, and herself begins to think forward to the actual life she might live. There follows a film (made at Coombe Farm at a variety of times during the year) of the life and activities of a young spastic as lived at the Centre—movement in a wheelchair, games, swimming, sightseeing by coach, and so on; and when the action returns to the stage it is realised that the original play has virtually

written itself. All is well, the positive approach to life has overcome the negative, Grace has defeated Dumpy.

The effectiveness of all this was due to two main factors, in addition to the appropriateness of the play itself. First, the formidable technical problems—the alternation of 'live' speech with tape-recording and miming, and the introduction of the film into the fabric of the plot—were handled with outstanding skill and ingenuity, so that what might have been weaknesses were in fact a strength. And, second, the actors, with their splendid acceptance of disability, showed both a grasp of the central idea and a notable sense of character and idiosyncrasy within the framework. The chief characters were not alone in this, though they had a large weight to carry. In the parts of the elderly inmates of the Old People's Home, for example, there was much humour and variety.

It is not easy to sum up the total effect of this play. It did not only arouse admiration and respect, it was in itself an entertainment of quality, a contribution to the understanding of what can be achieved in the face of heavy odds, and a pointer to any who wish to try a similar creative adventure.

## Producing Plays—(contd.)

Once again we have used dream sequences and thus I have been able to introduce a 15-minute film of all the residents at Coombe Farm. In this way, not only are my students part of the play this year, but everybody at the Centre will feature somewhere in the production.

To link the film to the classroom, make the story more interesting and supply more colour and variety to the film, I organized educational trips throughout the year to London, down the river, and to Greenwich. We then did a full-scale project on London in the classroom with each student taking a particular aspect of the City and producing essays and visual aids about his or her topic. Thus, at the 'Christmas Fayre', held at the Centre in October, we were able to hold a large educational display of work done in the classroom.

Remembering our recording troubles with the 'Purple Planet', I arranged the dialogue of the new play so that, whereas there might be seven or more characters on the stage at once, it was possible to record their speech in quieter, more manageable groups of three or less.

'The Purple Planet' presented many difficulties backstage, with too many scene changes and too many people out of their chairs at one time. In the second play I bore the production problems in mind and kept 'traffic' backstage to a minimum; thus only a very few people come on and off stage twice and once they have completed their scene they are able to be moved off stage to make room for further characters.

During my time at Coombe Farm I have been most impressed with the quiet courage and determination with which the residents conduct their life. In creating this new play I wanted to present this image to the public. Carol, the lead in the play and acted most convincingly by Ann Pearce, perhaps sums up the situation when talking about the character of the girl that she plays in the play within the play. She says, 'I think this young handicapped girl would like to imagine herself with other people of her own age who have the same difficulties as she has, she would want to laugh, sing, go places and be as normal as possible. Then people would admire her courage, meet her on her own terms and see that underneath her deformity she was a real human being.'

I could be criticised for having oversimplified the problems of a young spastic and of having glamorised the lead and some of the parts by dubbing voices, but whereas some of the residents had the physical capabilities to cope with a part, they may not have possessed a suitable voice that would sustain an audiences' interest, and in producing the play, I have tried to use as many people as possible so that all the residents at the Centre could feel that they had contributed, in some way or another, to the performance.



## Beach Service at COLWALL COURT-by-the-Sea

THIS FAMOUS HOTEL, run by the Stars' Organisation for Spastics for 18 spastic children at a time, has summer holiday bookings still available.

Colwall Court is a children's hotel—takes nobody over 16. It's not in fact a suitable place for the mentally handicapped child, because it is all geared up to give a rattling good holiday to spastic children (of any degree of physical handicap) who are able to enjoy the good-time gimmicks and the company of other children.

The Hotel is situated close to the sea, with a large garden with play facilities, indoor swimming pool and Minibus for country runs and a special vehicle to take the children on to the beach.

A new hydraulically-operated truck has been tested and is expected to be ready for use next summer. The truck will transport the children from the home down the trackway at Pages Gap and on to the beach.

### Opened in 1964

The trackway and ramp extending to the beach was officially opened in July, 1964, by the then Chairman of the S.O.S. (Harry Secombe). The construction work was carried out by 24 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers.

The truck has been specially designed so that the children will not tilt backwards or forwards and is fitted with maximum safety devices.

Children in wheelchairs are welcome, with or without their own helpers. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Marsh, who run the hotel, prefer children without helpers simply because that way they can accommodate more children. The



(Courtesy: The Bexhill -on-Sea Observer)

Mr. G. H. Marsh, Manager of Colwall Court, seen testing the new hydraulically-operated truck on the ramp at Pages Gap

children share rooms; there is a lift which takes wheelchairs, a trained staff . . . and a lot of fun to be had.

Write to Mr. Marsh, the manager of Colwall, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex, to book for the summer. Fees are £3 13s. 6d. weekly for children, adults by arrangement, for one- or two-week holidays.

'Pioneers,  
Oh, Pioneers!'

# 1. Farming Gossip from Thorngrove

'us do reckon we'm  
be doing a good job'

by  
The Gaffer



*A view of Thorngrove House from the garden. 'The Gaffer' says: 'The chaps are settlin' down, an' they expeck some City folks from Headcarters to be openin' it official-like, some time in July'*

T'FUST FIVE RESIDENTS arrived on t'fust o'December an' I reckon as how them looked a likely bunch o' lads. There wuz Colin Purefoy from Lunnon who'd bin a-workin' at t'Kingston day centre. He be a flower-grower so there'll be plenty to keep him a-goin.' Brian Shaw wuz keepin' pigs on 'is own account at one time, so at least he ought to know t'feedin' end of a pig from t'other end! We're a-goin' to put about 400 pigs a year through here, so t'more pig men us has, t'better that'll be.

Maurice Slade come up from Rustington (tha's down by t'sea in Sussex) an' he's done a little bit o' this an' a little bit o' that in t'gardens down there. He'd on'y bin 'ere a day or two when he went an' cut 'is 'and. Sawin' up some logs he were at t'time, cos us always has a log fire a-goin' at nights—an' that fire do be a hungry beggar for wood! Anyhow, us had to fetch the Vet. up to put a stitch in 'is 'and, an' Maurice's wuz t'fust name in t'accident book.

Young Douglas Sharp didn't have far t' come; he on'y live a step or two down t'road at Portland. He come from a sea-farin' family, so I reckon as how he'll feel at home with all t'water us has got about 'ere.

Martin Tierney didn't get here 'til t'next day, cos he wuz a-bringin' some bedside lamps along with 'im from Ponds. He be a rum feller—he brought enough baggage t' fit out a gang of tater-pickers. There nearly wusn't enough room for 'im in the motor.

The second day they wuz 'ere Master Rhodes, our farm bailiff, 'ad 'em all at work, an' work right well they did an' all. There be a lot o' hedgin' an' ditchin' an' fencin' t' be done afore us can put any animals on t'fields. If you do have any young stock on a field, them beggars 'll always find t'weak spot in

a hedge or a fence, an' then you 'ave to spend 'arf t'night a-gettin'-on 'em back.

O'course, us won't be able to 'ave any cows for some time, cos t'new farm buildings ain't ready. Them builder fellers don't arf take a long time doin' a job. An' they all be fair-weather workers—t'littlest drop o' rain an' they go to shelter. Master Rhodes 'as said one or two hasty words about that.

But us do reckon on gettin' some pigs an' calves in afore t'end o' February and then us'll all be better-tempered. You can't farm without animals, no matter how. This 'ere market garden us is plannin' on havin' 'll need a lot o' muck, so t'sooner us has some animals a-treadin' down some straw, t'better. Us has a nice little tractor an' a muck-spreader, so us be all ready t' go as soon as t'animals 'ave done their bit.

## 'Quite a lot o' visitors'

There wuz quite a lot o' visitors in them three weeks afore t'chaps went 'ome for Christmas. A lot o' them city folks come down from Lunnon—some place what they called 'Headcarters' they said they wuz from. Us always trys to give 'em plenty o' good fresh fodder if they stay t' lunch, but some o' 'em don't 'ave a lot of appetite. I must say us can all pack a fair bit away at meal times; t'cook always makes sartin' there's a few extra taters for them what do arsk for second 'elpin's.

There wuz two other fellers arrived at a-quarter-to-one on a Sunday mornin' just afore Christmas. They banged on t'door an' sounded t'hooter an' kicked up a heck-of-a-racket. So I puts my head out o' t'winder and I arsked 'em what they wanted. They said as how they'd come t' hang some curtains. So I told 'em t' clear orf afore I hung them! They started to bang about again in a

bit of a temper like, but by t' time I'd got down to t'front door wi' me shotgun they'd gorn. So us don't have very many curtains.

When us opened up again after Christmas, us had six more new residents come—an' three of 'em wuz young ladies. Us thought this might be a bit of a rum go, but them's gettin' settled down orlright an' they be right handy about t'house.

Jim Currie had a long journey t' get ere—all t'way from North Wales. He've been gardenin' fur a good number o' years, so he's a-goin' t'be a useful sort o' chap to 'ave 'ere. Philip Turner reckons he be keen on gardenin', too. Us do 'ope as how some o' these gardenin' fellers 'll larn t' look after t'animals an' 'all, otherwise them poor beggars won't get a lot t'eat.

Ah! but I did forget Douglas Bishop. He be another ex-pig-keeper, so he ought t' know which end o' the pig the grub goes in! Tha's a famous place for pigs where he do come from in Oxfordshire, so I expeck he'll be summat of an expert.

Sylvia Fooks wuz t'fust young lady to arrive, but after a few days she got took ill an' had t' go home again. Then us had Shirley McMahon from Sherrards. She do 'ave an Irish name but I believe she do really come from Zummerzet or Devon. That be grand farmin' country.

T'last one t' get 'ere was Elaine Parker. She be a lively lass, but don't she 'arf kick up a racket. Us always know when Elaine's about.

Well, they've been hectic days lately, but no doubt us'll 'ave forgot a lot of it come next hay-makin'. That won't be long now afore everythin'll be a-growin' again, an' I reckon as how we're a-goin' t' get a nice 'ot zummer for our fust year at Thorngrove (even if I am a-stickin' me neck out saying so).

## 2. How to Move into a Hostel

by Shirley Keene —past Editor, SPASTICS NEWS

*(or should it be: how not to?)*

—present Editor, SPASTICS NEWS

JOE, THE MAINTENANCE MAN, collected me in the van on the Tuesday after Christmas. He padded down my front steps with bundles of curtain material, the sewing machine and the radio, and tolerantly showed no surprise at the largeness and oddity of the collection I was taking with me.

It was a bit tricky—I was moving into an unoccupied partly-furnished house which is in the process of becoming a hostel. The beds were there, but not the crockery; heating but no floor covering; saucepans, yes, but the only frying pan would accommodate eggs for ten people and one egg would look a bit silly.

'Joe', I said, 'We'll have to stop on the way and buy some cups and curtain hooks. You'll need a cuppa and I see no reason why the neighbours should get a free floor show when I undress for bed tonight.'

We unpacked the van and turned on the heat, and the tap for the tea. The former glowed comfortingly; from the latter, nothing! Joe got technical. 'The cock's turned off or else you've got a freeze. Got a ladder?' 'No, but there are some steps'. Not long enough. We hauled a table up from downstairs and put the steps on the table. Still not long enough.

Then we rang the builders who sounded a bit testy but sent a ladder and a plumber. We had a 'freeze'. While he coped with it, Joe kindly assembled my bed, hung my curtains, drank his cuppa, lectured me firmly about chaining the door at night, and departed.

The plumber, a quiet and meditative man descended, gave me a thoughtful discourse on freezes, and went too. I shut the door (chained it too!) and settled in as best I could.

The theory was that I should stay in the house accepting deliveries and getting on with the curtains. Making them is my idea. I like making curtains. Relaxing occupational therapy. Just make my mind a blank and turn the handle of the machine and the colour floods into me—colour is meant for the comfort and delight of the human spirit or words to that effect—Ruskin, if I remember rightly.

An added complication was that the house around the corner was also unoccupied while becoming 'Hostelised'. Deliveries entered there too. Schizophrenic Keene they call me.

On Wednesday, Dobbie showed up to help. He measured up for the extra shelf in the larder, found old timber outside which had to be dried out on the hearth and bought some more and the screws for the wall-mirrors. He also went uncomplainingly to the Other House to see if they had a freeze and returned to report a blocked waste pipe but the tank was alright.

The standard lamp arrived and the Hoover handle (Hoover came two weeks before), and the sheets and blankets. I unpacked and counted: scoring one blanket down, and two sheets up.

On Thursday three gardeners came and made depressed faces about the

year's untended grass, and I hopped out and bought some more cups. Dobbie put up the shelf and bought some paint and we decided the wall-mirror heights ('down low here, wheelchairs to sleep in this room') I made tea for the gardeners saying brightly, 'I don't touch the stuff so although the coffee's good here the tea's probably foul.' H.Q. rang up, 'We know there was a flood at the Other House and what were we doing about it?'

Friday the gardeners came a bit later. I was watching from upstairs. They were sitting in the front of their lorry, drinking tea out of a thermos. Now, that's what I call ingratitude!

H.Q. rang up and said that the cutlery had arrived at the Other House and would I go and check it. Two electricians were there seeing how much of the wiring had survived the flood. We turned on all the heaters and I counted the knives, forks and spoons. (Correct. Whoopee!) and went back to find the gardeners gone and a huge van with a man trying to deliver a 'fridge. He needed someone to give him a hand. I said I am very strong, but he was polite but firm. Thinking it over he may have been right. If he had dropped a 15 cubic foot 'fridge on my shoulders I might have buckled at the knees. I shot upstairs and rang the electricians and made him a cuppa while they came.

### The carpetman cometh

H.Q. rang up and said I would be glad to hear that the carpet men were coming on Monday.

I went home for the weekend—Bliss! However I don't seem to be getting on very well with my curtains.

I got back on Monday at 9.10 a.m. to find one of those formal little notes, 'Our man tried to make delivery . . .' The carpet men did not come but I did get a postman, a telephone man, a gas man, a milkman, two lino men and, thank goodness, Dobbie, so I could go out shopping. (The workers must eat!) Popped into the Other House to inspect the floods and a van came with another 'fridge (telephoned Dobbie 'HELP!') Two electric kettles, a Hoover (with handle), an ironing-board, pair of steps

### A nice warm 'fridge

Just before Dobbie went home he connected the 'fridge (the first one) and put on the plug and we switched on. Two hours later I put my hand into the freezer. It was as warm as toast!

When I 'phoned they said they could send a man, I wish the carpet men would come. I cannot get on with the curtains until I can spread them flat on the floor. There's a cracked toilet seat to be replaced (gents don't notice, ladies do) and one of the fluorescent lights in the kitchen is on the blink.

The lady next door asks: 'When is everyone moving in?' It's a good question.



(Courtesy: Herts Advertiser)

### Learning is Fun

with the new teaching machine for which the local Spastics Society Group subscribed half the cost, and presented to Elmfield School, Harpenden, Herts. Here the Headmaster, Mr. R. A. Jones, is showing young Richard Farnarth how the push-button control shows the questions and gives the answers projected on the screen

# Life in an Australian Centre



DRAWING BY FRITZ WEGNER

*"On waking to hear the dreaded munch of powerful jaws on my produce, I pressed the buzzer for the nurse. . . . Cattle mustering is an essential part of a nurse's training"*

**This interesting glimpse of a Spastic's life, 'down under', is by GRAHAM GUEST, of Brisbane, Queensland, Editor of the Australian Adult Spastics Magazine, *Undaunted***

ALMOST FOUR YEARS AGO I was a foundation resident of *Sevenoaks* a home for adult spastics in Brisbane, Australia, the first, and as yet, the only such establishment in this country.

This article describes the layout and function of *Sevenoaks*, and I hope to give a few interesting details about the Brisbane Spastic Children's Centre and our Adult Spastic Club, in another instalment.

Although *Sevenoaks* is principally for those adults whose parents are deceased, or who are no longer able to care for them, we have both permanent and temporary residents who are there for a host of reasons. In my case, living at *Sevenoaks* provides me with much more opportunity to pursue various activities editing a magazine, writing a book, gardening and painting, as well as having the company of other residents, staff and visitors. I also can have many outings, including the cinema, theatre and concerts. I am an avid classical music lover.

On hearing that *Sevenoaks* was being built, I at once imagined the very ordered lives the residents would have to lead—of getting up early, of having to start and stop work at a specific time, and of being tucked up in bed at some early hour. This didn't appeal to me at all, and I can say *Sevenoaks* was not at all what I imagined, in this regard. In fact, I would say the greatest aspect of living at *Sevenoaks* is that you are free to live your life the way you choose.

Of course, you conform to basic rules, such as set meal times, and those that are mobile infirm sister when they are going out; but there are no annoying personal restraints, such as visiting hours, passes, or time for

lights out. Such things are unheard of. I can work to midnight so long as I don't disturb other residents, or go to bed straight after tea and watch TV.

I suppose this aspect of living our lives as we wish is more important to me, because I like to follow various enterprises I have largely discovered for myself and I wouldn't be happy with the dull routine of a workshop job. In other words I am an individualist and am grateful for *Sevenoaks* being a place where I can not only carry on pursuits, but receive rewards in achieving my ends.

*Sevenoaks* buildings consists of two female wings and three male wings, with kitchen-dining room, recreation room, and Uhl House, containing the offices, and accommodation for children whose mothers are ill, or the most severely affected adults who need comprehensive nursing.

## Ten in each Wing

Each wing contains accommodation for ten, with individual bedrooms. These are cubicle-type rooms with a curtained frontage. Each room contains built-in shelves, wardrobe and dressing table. There is sufficient space in my room to allow me to have my own radio-gram and TV., and a carpet makes it a cosy little corner. My room is at the end of the second wing and I have my typewriter in the wide passageway, completing what, at various times has been guest's den, the editor's office, or just the junk shop. The latter is probably because I always seem to have papers, books, and what-have-you, laying in grand disarray, but quite orderly to me.

It would give me great satisfaction if more rooms were like mine, but I realise only too

well that a near empty room is an all too grim indication of empty mind. This cannot always be attributed to lack of intelligence or money. It is a matter of outlook. It is as though these residents have over-resigned themselves to their handicap and the restricted life it invokes, or perhaps, in some cases, it isn't a matter of handicaps. They are simply ordinary people with no special ambition who just like to live each day as it comes along prepared to take a small job in the workshop. But what many do not ask themselves is, 'Am I working to my full potential? Can I do better? What of the future?'

The most significant fact I have found after living at *Sevenoaks*, is that it is not the extent of a person's handicaps that is the most important factor in determining his role in life. It is his outlook and will.

When I look from the end of my wing, I look out over river flats and mountains in the distance, making a peaceful rural scene. This is only nine miles from the Brisbane G.P.O., and so *Sevenoaks* has a rural setting (11 acres in area) though quite close to the city. Last year I started a vegetable garden which grew to a rather large area. I loved my garden and once out in it, nothing would draw me in, except meal bells.

Whilst gardening I would get absolutely filthy, of course, and our laundress used to grumble about the state of my trousers and I would get very hot, especially in the Queensland summer, but it was all worth it. The tomatoes, corn, and lettuce which were won from the soil to be sold to staff or sent over to the Centre for marketing through their canteen, was enough compensation.

My garden became my contribution to the

incentive payment scheme and I received a regular remuneration. All would have worked well, if it had not been for the neighbour's cows laying my garden bare on two occasions and my inability to find help for jobs I could not do, like spraying and heavy digging. On waking in the dead of night to hear the dreaded munch of powerful jaws on my produce I had toiled so hard to grow I would press the buzzer at the head of my bed which would bring down the night nurse. After a few nights around our wings chasing these hefty beasts at my bidding, she offered a few mild protests, but I replied to these with 'I think cattle mustering is an essential part of a nurse's training.'

Let me end these remarks on *Sevenoaks* by saying that *Sevenoaks* fills a need in the community to the best of man's present ability and knowledge. One facet that particularly interests me, is the young people from the country staying there, who have either just left school, or are in their final years there. I think there is a tremendous responsibility to these youngsters to give them the best start in life possible, not only physically and educationally, but psychologically—probably the most difficult of all.

(To be continued)

## 'when the light was dim'

by Gordon Henry Morey

Published by EPWORTH PRESS (Price 18s. 6d.)

Reviewed by Rosemary Dawson Shepherd  
(Oakwood Centre)

THIS BOOK IS A SIMPLE recounting of the story of the author's eldest daughter, Lesley, who was in a car crash which resulted in a severe spinal injury, totally paralysing her from the neck downwards. It is, however, more than this. Mr. Morey recounts the profound effect that Lesley had on the people who came into contact with her amazing courage—all the more amazing because it was unconscious on her part.

There is a highly religious aspect to this book, but it is sincere, and does not unduly detract from the story itself. Lesley's faith is as much a part of her as her chair or type-writer came to be. Frankly, I found some parts of the book were a little sentimental, though, and felt that a certain amount of the 'courage' testimonials could have been left out, but this is a matter of taste.

It is an interesting book from a technical point of view and Mr. and Mrs. Morey took detailed notes of their daughter's progress. It is also interesting to note that Lesley never became a 'hospital type', because her parents

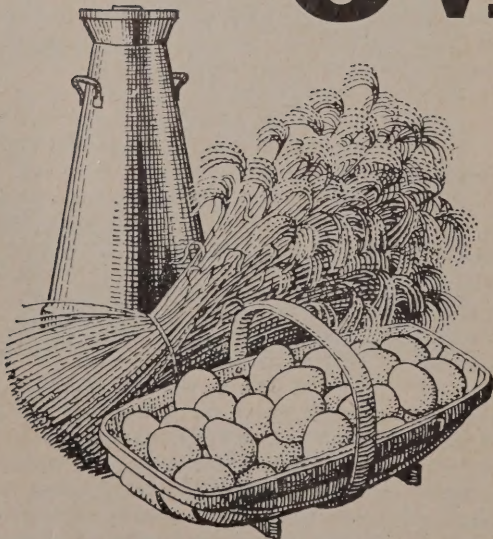
kept in close contact with her throughout her hospital stay.

This is a story that could have been written of anyone in the same circumstances, but it is interesting in that it is about a child. Being about a child, it has a clear description also of the fears experienced by her parents, particularly when the surgeon decides that a dangerous operation may make a difference to the child's condition. One can feel very clearly the agitation of the parents when they must make a decision as to whether they want their child operated on or not.

The story ends with Lesley's death from pneumonia, but not before she has managed to learn to type, to feed herself, and to carry on her schooling to G.C.E. O-level through the use of the home-teacher scheme.

The book is of medium length and will be of interest to those who enjoy 'courage over handicap' books. It is very reminiscent of *Over My Dead Body*. It will appeal more to those with a religious outlook since this is the underlying theme.

# OVALTINE



## Better sleep on it!

# The Charm of the Unexpected

## 21-year-old Geoffrey Busby, a chairbound athetoid, here describes a visit to Sweden by twelve of the residents from Ponds

AT ONE A.M. ON THE NINETEENTH OF JULY, a party of twelve spastics and six staff from Ponds set out for a fortnight's holiday in Sweden. Our flight was a very comfortable one and although we had a two-hour wait at Copenhagen airport, it was not too bad, as it was a glorious morning and we were able to sit on the steps of the aircraft.

A chartered coach met us at Gothenburg airport and after going through the customs we were greeted by the British Consul and a physiotherapist from a local spastics school. It was at this school that we had our first Swedish meal. What a meal this was! What we had expected to be a minor snack turned out to be a near luncheon. There were cereals, a wonderful mushroom omelette, cheeses of all kinds and, ah yes! that wonderful coffee we can never get in England. After this we were allowed to tour the school.

I don't wish to belittle England's welfare state, but this was definitely the most well-designed, well-equipped and well-run school for the handicapped that I have ever seen. There just is not time to mention all its good points, but the ones that stand out in my mind are the wide corridors, a marvelously well-equipped indoor swimming pool and a class of very young children where a group of young girls spend the whole time playing with them and moving their limbs.

Next, we rejoined the coach and after a trip around Gothenburg we set out on our journey of 150 miles to our hotel in Tranås. This journey, which took four hours, afforded for many of us our first sight of a foreign landscape, and therefore will always stand out in our minds. I cannot describe the joy and amazement which I personally felt on seeing the vast blue lakes, with the sunlight glistening across them, which suddenly spread out on either side of us. Also, on this journey, we climbed through some hilly forest areas in which, at one point a gushing waterfall spouted from the rocks to our left, this was a breath-taking sight.

On our arrival at Tranåsbaden, our hotel, we were to experience some of the marvellous Swedish hospitality which we were to be given throughout our two-weeks' stay. As the coach drew up, there were four Press photographers waiting to photograph our arrival. We were shocked and delighted at this, but there was more to come, for, as we left the



### OFF ON THE SPREE!

*Some members of the party went into Stockholm on a sight-seeing expedition driven by their good friend Gustav—after a very late night party, says Geoffrey. A friend of his says that he is an extrovert with wide interests and social contacts. He is the present Chairman of the Family Council and frequently makes constructive suggestions. He has a lively well-adjusted personality and contributes well to the life at Ponds*

coach, we were each presented with a red rose. Our arrival was also covered by the Swedish radio's Home Service.

That evening was spent settling in and meeting all our new friends. There was Gustav, from Stockholm, who was to prove invaluable for he had great enthusiasm and drive. Then there were the four girls, Malice, Elizabeth, Eva and Monica. They were a wonderful group and without them the holiday would not have been the same. Last but not least, there were Elizabeth Spencer and Bissie, the two Swedish organizers; we owe so much to these two that it is impossible to express our gratitude to them.

The first days of our holiday were very hot, but when you have got a swimming pool and a tremendous blue lake to bathe in, this kind of weather is ideal and it would be difficult not to enjoy oneself under those conditions. To say that we enjoyed ourselves is an understatement in itself! During the two weeks we spent in Sweden, I don't think

there could have been one minute when something wasn't happening. It is the general feeling that what made the holiday so wonderful was the unexpected outings and occurrences. If everyone in the party was to write a report on the holiday none of them would be identical, for with the exception of the organized party tours, we were allowed to organize the rest of our holiday for ourselves. This led to a wonderful air of freedom, which enabled us to have the kind of holiday we wanted, rather than a purely organized one which perhaps some people would have found frustrating.

An example of this was the trip to Stockholm which another member of the family, two staff and I had. We started at 1 a.m. after, I hasten to say, we had spent the previous evening until 12 o'clock at one of the many parties. We had a wonderful day touring the capital city. When we arrived back at the local station, we were met by Gustav, who, despite our pleas to take us home to bed insisted on our going to a party. Because he was driving, that was where we ended up. This was at 10 p.m. and the party, which we enjoyed very much, did not end until 3 a.m. So, as you can imagine, we were quite ready for our beds. However, by 9 a.m. that morning we were all up and 'raring to go!' This was on a Sunday, but the person who wrote that song about it being a 'day of rest', certainly was not describing this one. In the morning, we went to the local church, after which we had coffee and cakes with the minister.

### Free but not Boring

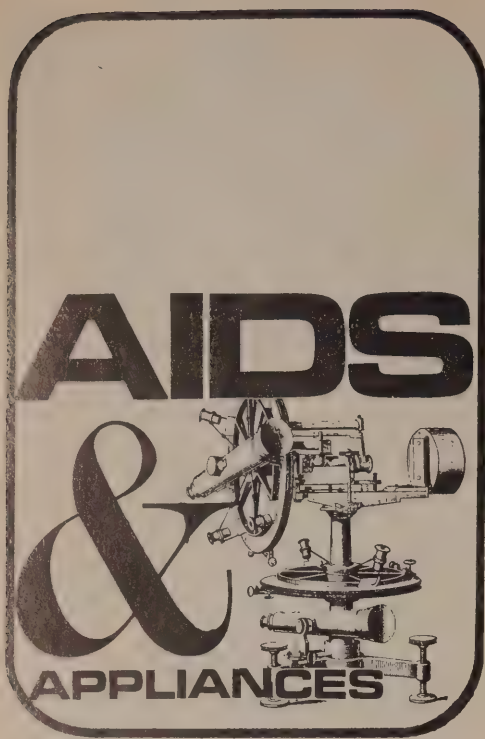
The afternoon was free but certainly not boring. A few days before this, someone had casually mentioned over breakfast how nice it would be if we had a rowing boat. Sure enough, within a quarter-of-an-hour, our hosts had provided one.

It was in this boat that the two girls and I decided to spend that Sunday afternoon. Getting into the boat presented a bit of a problem, but I suggested that if they were to put my cushion in the bottom of the boat, I could quite easily slide from the landing stage onto it. This worked fine, but unfortunately, the boat had a false wooden bottom, under which there was, at least, one inch of water, and, of course, when I got in it all came to my end.

Ah yes, that was a wonderful afternoon! The sun was shining across the perfectly calm blue lake and the two lovely girls kept smiling at me, sitting there in six inches of freezing cold water. Unfortunately, neither of them was a very good oarswoman and every now and then, the volume of water that I was sitting in, was increasing.

This sample of our timetable was typical of the whole holiday and although I can't tell you in what way everybody enjoyed it, I can say that the whole holiday was enjoyed very much.

We sincerely hope that one day we will be able to return the gesture.

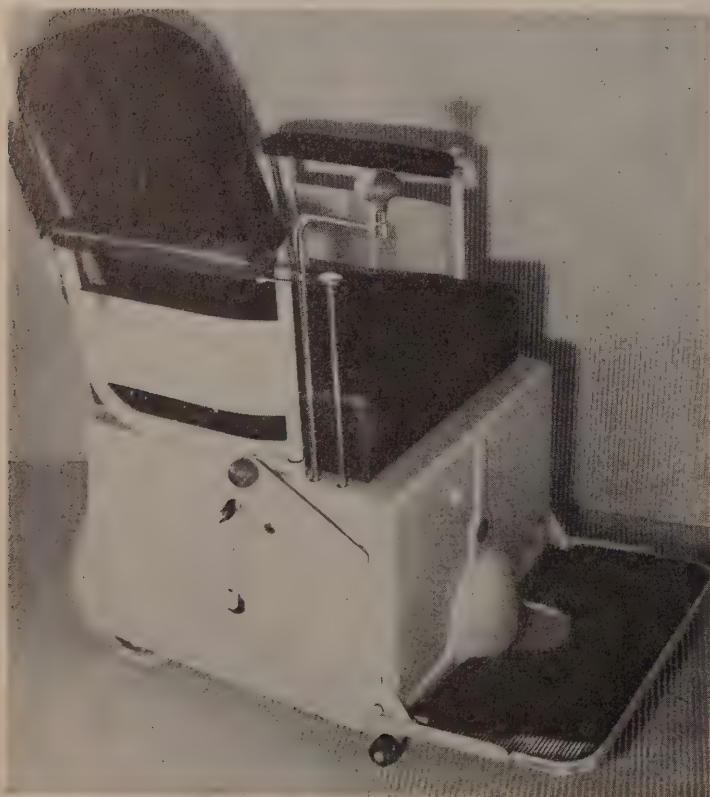


It is recommended that appliances from this section should not be bought without first checking with the doctor or physiotherapist on its suitability for each spastic. All enquiries should be addressed to the Appliance Officer, 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1.



#### Amesbury Pram Seat

*I get asked, from time to time, for a pram chair suitable for a spastic. Mr. Goldthorp of Amesbury Surgical Appliances, South Mill Road, Amesbury, Wilts., has now modified a pram chair which you see in the photograph. It has adjustable footrest, wings and a high firm back, and can be adjusted to suit any pram. Cost £7 10s. 0d.*



#### Electric Indoor Wheelchair

*The Ministry of Health will now supply electric wheelchairs for indoor use to those who are heavily handicapped and are unable to manage self-propelled chairs. They make the proviso (to put it in their own words), that this chair must be able to provide 'some measure of independence'. This chair is made by A.C. Cars Limited, Thames Ditton, Surrey, and I understand that powered steering is being developed. Special body adaptations can be made to this chair. Steering on the standard model is by turning the crank with a knob on it in the direction pointed out by the small arrow beneath, it. Slight pressure downwards and you are off (but we hope not off the chair)! As a matter of fact, this chair is not at all sudden in its movements and its speed is specially geared to suit small houses and its steering is easily manipulated so that it can turn in its own length. On the standard model, the controls can be on the left- or right-hand side, and the arm rest on the opposite side is hinged to help getting on and off.*

*Application for an electric wheelchair must be made through the usual Ministry channels as for all motorised vehicles, e.g., doctor to prescribing specialist to Ministry.*



### Removable Table for Vessa Wheelchair

This adjustable table, made by Vessa Limited, can be supplied on prescription by the Ministry of Health where a Vessa lightweight wheelchair weighing 36 lbs. has been issued on prescription. Note that the fixing of this table is by reversing the arm rests, removing the plastic plugs and dropping in the table. If bought privately, it costs £3 from Vessa Ltd., Paper Mill Lane, Alton, Hants. It is made of plywood with folding aluminium fixing brackets and the surface is made of easily cleaned plastic laminate.



### Elsan 'Bristol' Closet

This is the latest model of a well-tried chemical closet, which can be supplied by some Local Authorities.

This may be the answer where lavatories are inaccessible for heavily handicapped spastics.

This closet is made by Sanitas Group Sales, Limited, Speciality Division, 43-45 Clapham Road, London, S.W.9, and costs £8 19s. 6d.



### Converted Spring-Horse (Left)

This converted spring horse may be useful to some of our centres. Miss Howard, M.C.S.P., Superintendent Physiotherapist of the Centre for Spastic Children, Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, writes:

'... we suggested that the manufacturers might alter it to suit handicapped children and spastics in particular. This they did, and we have had the modified version here for two or three months now in constant use. The particular points you raise—it is perfectly easy to lift a child on to the saddle and once in position he both feels and is, quite safe and secure. The handles are in such a position that the child does not have any tendency to fling back into an extended position, and if he should flop forward he is protected by the padding on the horse's head. The feet can be well secured with the straps, and the trunk with the special fitment supplied. The width of the horse is a good one, giving a gentle stretch to tight hip adductors which can only be beneficial for the average spastic child. This has really proved to be a surprisingly popular and useful toy, providing amusement and independence for masses of children in our age-group (2 years to 10 years) and to many of the brothers and sisters who may accompany their spastic relations to the Cheyne. I can recommend it whole-heartedly from a longish study of it with spastic children.'

This horse is made by Sebel and Co. Ltd., 177 West Street, Erith, Kent, and you should write to Mr. R. T. Andrews. The cost of this is £8 15s. 0d. delivered

### HOW BIG IS THE PROBLEM?

Periodically I am asked what shoes wear the best and what sort of material is best for repairing them. At other times, I hear complaints that spastics get through their shoes so quickly that it becomes a major budgeting expense on the family. Is this your problem? Do you have trouble with your shoes wearing out and are you willing to take part in a survey to find out the extent and importance of this problem, and to find out what should be done about it?

# Bored and Lonely

**The most severe handicap of the person with a brain injury is in the inability to communicate, says Dr. Duncan Leys**

PEOPLE RESEMBLE EACH OTHER, but no two people are exactly alike, not even 'identical' twins. We all differ from each other in hereditary traits, and even more in our experience, so that no two people ever see the same events in exactly the same way. We learn to make allowance for this, but are not often so successful that we can 'stand in the other man's shoes', and see things with his eyes. It is the effort to overcome this isolation of one individual from another—to communicate—that lies at the heart of the civilised behaviour which distinguishes man from other animals, and its main channel is speech.

You can 'get by' in a foreign language with a few hundred words if you are a tourist; if you want to discuss a problem you must have very many more, and the wider the range of experience you wish to share with others, the larger must your vocabulary be, and the clearer the definition of the words you use. Deaf people learn to communicate a good deal with sign language, but total deafness limits the possibilities of communication a good deal. Speech is needed for communicating not only intellectual ideas, but also feeling. Misunderstandings are constantly arising between even the most intelligent and educated people owing to the inexact way in which words are used, quite apart from the disagreements which result from their different experiences.

The most severe handicap suffered by a person whose brain has been injured during development lies in his inability to communicate and his resulting isolation. It requires a constant effort of the imagination to keep a mentally handicapped child within the ambience or 'atmosphere' of a family. He is so easily overlooked, or rather, since nearly everyone means well by him, not so much forgotten as treated with a kindly indulgence which ignores the possibility of his playing an active part.

A baby is at once a source of pleasure to parents, and undemanding; he learns by imitation and by trial and error, and he is making constant small advances which give him satisfaction, increase his confidence in his own powers, and win him applause. To show the same sort of interest and give the same sort of encouragement to a child who *looks* his age of five or six but who behaves like a baby, and a very slow baby at that, is not something which anyone can do for very long at a stretch; it is just too exacting. It is

almost inevitable then that a severely mentally handicapped child should suffer some degree of isolation, especially if he has some paralysis or other physical handicap which makes movement and manipulation difficult, or interferes with vision and hearing.

Before we learned how damaging it could be, it was quite common for children in residential nurseries, homes and hospitals, to be left alone, or at least with no adult paying any attention to them, in cots, without toys or other things to interest them, for hours at a time, and for weeks or months on end. Children neglected in this way often got ill; by reason of their isolation they were invariably backward in mental development and behaviour as compared with other children living with their families, and they showed a very characteristic type of behaviour—they developed rhythmic habits.

A child would be seen to rock himself to and fro hour after hour, to nod or shake his head, to bang his head against the cot side or the wall, to suck his fingers and to make monotonous humming noises. Such behaviour is common in mentally handicapped children and has the same meaning, i.e. that they are bored and lonely. While it may be true that a child with a damaged brain may be less

acutely sensitive than normal children to deprivation, neglect and lack of communication, it is wrong to assume this is always so, and there have been many studies to show how the progress of a mentally handicapped child can be greatly encouraged when, under hospital conditions the staff are increased in numbers so that children are not left alone.

The moral of this is that a mentally handicapped child needs more, not less, interest shown him by adults than a normal child, and that he needs more stimulus by techniques suited to his existing state of mental activity. Although a child may be more contented in the company of one familiar adult all the time, it will be ultimately to his advantage to have a variety of people with him, for nobody can maintain a really active interest in teaching and playing with mentally handicapped children for hours at a stretch; it is too exhausting.

It is better for children to spend several hours each day in school, but the recruiting of properly trained staff and the finding of premises and equipment for schools still lags far behind demand. It is also unfortunately true that there is quite often opposition by local residents to schools for mentally sub-normal children. In both these things—the stimulating of educational and hospital authorities to provide schools and training centres, and the educating of the public to regard the children with friendly eyes—the associations of parents have a very valuable part to play.

Some authorities, notably the London County Council, have shown themselves ready to move rapidly ahead with day nursery, nursery school and special school accommodation for handicapped children and to take advantage of the opportunity given by the Mental Health Act of 1959, but others have not.

*(To be continued)*

## HAPPY and CONTENTED



(Above) Engaged: Miss Barbara Roberts and her fiancé, 28-year-old Terry, an Economics Student at Hull University.

(Left): Mr. and Mrs. Roy Taylor, with their lusty infant, Darrin.



## • THREE AWARD-WINNING DESIGNS •

The Society is proud to announce that three of the buildings specially designed for spastics have been honoured with awards by the Civic Trust. This description of them is introduced by the Society's Architectural Adviser,

**COLIN SMART, A.A.Dip., A.R.I.B.A.**  
(The Development Department)

*THE Civic Trust makes every year a series of Awards for environmental design. The object of the Awards is 'to stimulate public interest in the appearance of our towns and villages; to create a greater awareness of the problems of environmental design in all its aspects including architecture, planning and civic design in the widest sense and to draw attention to the most notable contributions currently being made to our environment as a whole.'*

*The Awards are organised on a three-year basis; counties, county boroughs and the London area taking turn to submit entries. The Awards for 1965 which were recently announced were submitted by County Councils throughout Great Britain and Northern Ireland. From over a thousand entries, 62 Awards and 117 Commendations were made.*

*Three of the Society's buildings received awards under the Trust's Class I scheme. The Award for Kent was made for the buildings of Thomas Delarue School, Tonbridge, designed by Architects Co-Partnership. Commendations were received for Ingfield Manor School, in West Sussex, designed by Hilton Wright, and for the Oakwood Centre in Kelvedon, Essex, which was designed by Dennis Pugh and Associates.*

*Of the 179 Awards and Commendations for works ranging from the Forth Road Bridge to roadside litter bins, from Civic Centres to birdwatchers' huts, 10 per cent were for buildings designed particularly for the elderly or the handicapped. It is interesting to see how the care demanded of the architect in the detailed design, in order to ensure the building's suitability for its occupants, has gone together with an overall awareness of the need to integrate the building and its users into the civic environment.*

*If the many buildings which, put together, form our everyday surroundings were designed with equal care how much better would our environment be. If only that whole environment were designed with equal awareness of the physical barriers which can face the aged or disabled, how much fuller could their lives become!*



**Ingfield Manor:** a view of the North-East, showing the children's play-tower known as 'The Baron's Keep', and how the various classrooms are stepped to obtain every advantage of sun and view



**Thomas Delarue:** the students have the benefit of two pools used for biology placed in the library courtyard. The high level of the sloping sides enables wheelchair students to observe pond life at close quarters



**Oakwood:** the simplicity and refinement of the main entrance fits in well with its period neighbours

# • INGFIELD MANOR SCHOOL •

THIS School which was officially opened in 1964, provides 50 places for spastic educationally sub-normal children aged five to sixteen. A neo-Georgian country house built in 1912 was converted into dormitories and day rooms for children and bedrooms for some of the staff. It is near Billingshurst, in Sussex,

In the surrounding gardens were erected seven classrooms, an assembly hall, a hydrotherapy pool and therapy rooms. The school caters for partially deaf children with special acoustically treated classrooms.

The form of each classroom is expressed externally by a pyramid roof covered with aluminium sheeting. Wall panels externally are shiplap boarding painted white or tile hanging.

Of the school and the staff housing in the surrounding grounds, the Civic Trust's assessor wrote:

'The whole complex has been extremely well considered in relation to its environment. The new buildings carefully designed for their very special purpose, are very satisfactorily integrated with the existing small mansion and excellent use made of the grounds available.'

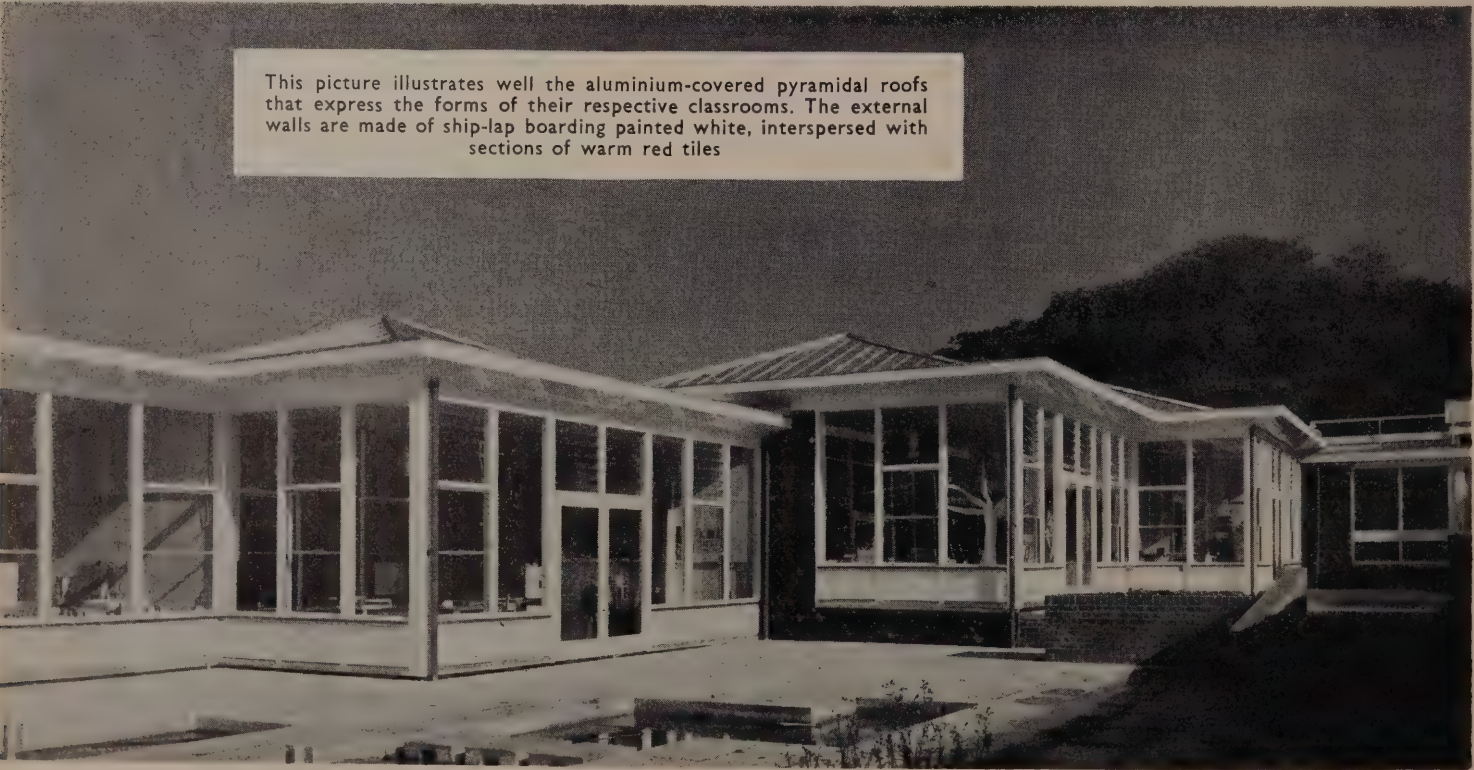
Mr. Hilton Wright, the architect, has also carried out for the Society the adaptations and extensions for its Buxton Adult Centre and has been responsible for two Family Help Units—the pioneer at The Mount, Nottingham, and the one now under construction in Manchester.



## • The THOMAS D

THIS is the largest of the Society's educational units, providing residential accommodation for 82 boys and girls from the age of eleven upwards. The School was

This picture illustrates well the aluminium-covered pyramidal roofs that express the forms of their respective classrooms. The external walls are made of ship-lap boarding painted white, interspersed with sections of warm red tiles



A preliminary sketch by the Architect showing on the left a residential block carried out in red brick featuring a terrazzo-lined concrete escape-chute, linked by a bridge to the main range of classrooms on the right



## ARUE SCHOOL

originally housed in Dene Park, a late Victorian house north of Tonbridge, Kent, now adapted for use by our Further Education Centre.

Architects Co-Partnership's new buildings form an extensive complex round a series of courts, with single storey timber buildings for teaching, training and therapy, two-storey brick construction for the children's residential areas, and for the houses and hostels provided for residential staff.

As well as general classrooms, for the School's courses leading to G.E.C. examinations and those of the Royal Society of Arts, there are rooms for Art, Craft, Woodwork and Metalwork, Domestic Science and Housecraft, and a well-equipped Laboratory. Treatment facilities include Physiotherapy, Speech Therapy and Occupational Therapy.

The assessor, Richard Sheppard, C.B.E., F.R.I.B.A., wrote of the design these glowing words:—

'These buildings make a skilful use of the site and their coherence of purpose and design form a contrast to what has been allowed to occur to the south. By placing the teaching buildings on the higher land to the north a measure of privacy and freedom has been obtained



A view across the courtyard lawn shows the North-West side of the Assembly Hall with its interesting saw-tooth roof lights. An attractive feature is a rectangular ornamental pool running the length of the wall

for the handicapped children. The use of the southern and wooded area for staff houses ensures the continuity of the tree screen and also allows the houses to be grouped among them—an advantage to the occupants and to the staff.

Such a large group of buildings might easily, with less sensitive designers, have been visually dominating and even institutional. But by using timber—western red cedar—for all the walls, the buildings merge into the woodland behind. The composition of the buildings in plan keeps them intimate and unobtrusive.

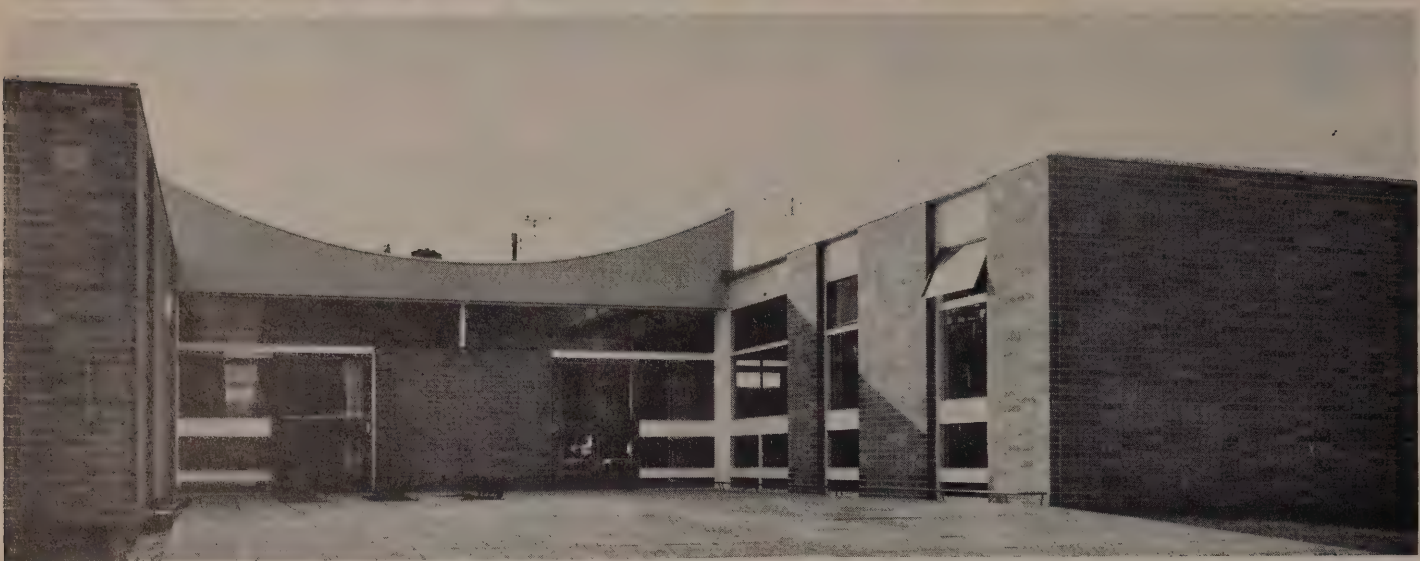
All the residential buildings have been built in a dark red brick with black stained horizontal boarding. These are two-storey and make a foil to the school

buildings—the inherent qualities of each material, dark brick and silvery wood setting off the other. The school buildings necessarily have a large window area with a horizontal emphasis and are light and transparent, while the houses and dormitories have appropriately smaller windows in brickwork. These buildings are solid, protective and must give the children a sense of enclosure and security.

These buildings are consistent in design, refined and skilful in detail, appropriate to their setting and superbly related to their function.'

Architects Co-Partnership are also the designers of the Birmingham Hostel and Workshop and of the Meldreth Training School, which is still under construction.

# The OAKWOOD CENTRE for adults



A view of the Lounge block giving onto the north-easterly courtyard, showing the dramatic roof and carefully textured wall treatment

The Oakwood site is behind a group of cottages in the High Street of Kelvedon, Essex, adjacent to the Grange. The cottages are used as staff accommodation.

The brief was to form a unit to accommodate and provide facilities for 21 of the more intelligent heavily handicapped young adult spastics of both sexes. The aim of the unit was to provide a 'home' in the correct sense of the word where mutual encouragement and stimulation could be found by academically inclined young people whose physical handicap might be very severe.

Bedrooms were to double as private study rooms and the aim was to provide a unit giving flexibility in arrangement as the laying down of definite limitations on the number of each sex might restrict intake into the unit.

The building, on a very tight site, is carefully planned to form quiet courtyard spaces between residential blocks. The materials

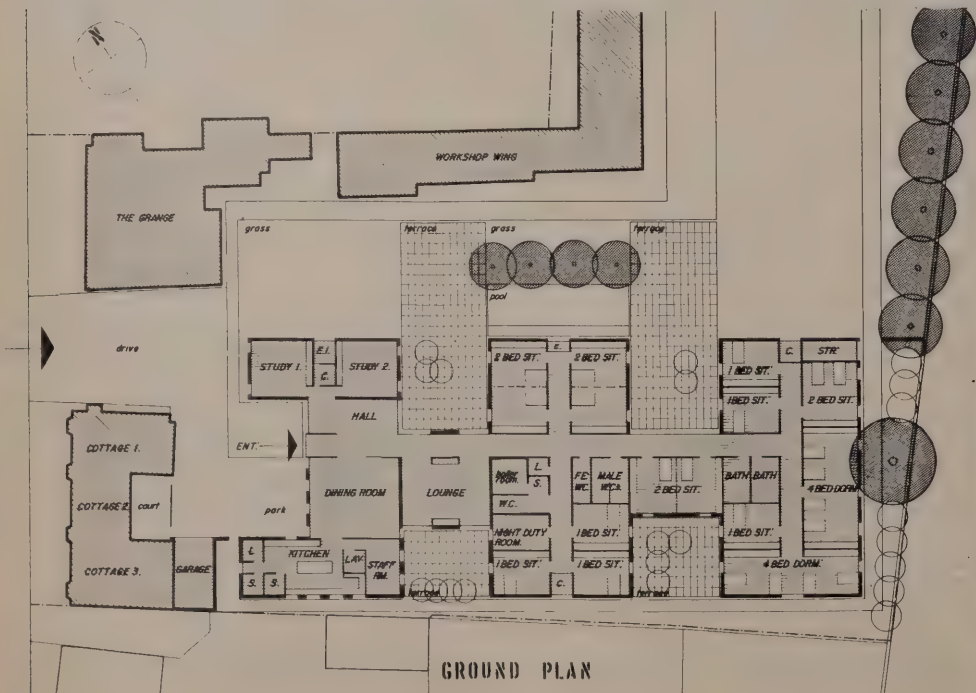
are lilac grey facing bricks, white painted softwood and polished hardwood doors.

The assessor said of the Centre:

'No attempt has been made to reproduce the character of adjacent buildings but the simplicity of form, materials and colour used fit in extremely well with the older flanking buildings and give an overall effect of harmony. The planning of the accommodation around three-sided courtyards not only gives a desirable intimate environment, but the paving and planting in these courtyards has been excellently conceived.'

Mr. Dennis Pugh, the architect, is responsible for most of the Society's work in Essex and in addition to Oakwood has been responsible for Jacques Hall, The Bedfont Hotel, The Grange and Wakes Hall for the S.O.S. This firm is now designing for the Society our first large purpose-built residential Centre.

*(Copies of this article may be obtained on request).*



The interior, showing dining room and kitchen

—to be effective, the Spastics Groups must foster

## Good Relations with the Local Authority

says **E. Cowen**, Deputy Chief Welfare Officer, Salop C.C.

THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN a Spastics Group and the local authority for its area vary enormously from one part of the country to another. In some places they are harmonious and constructive. In others the Group regards the authority as hide-bound, mean, and lazy; whilst the authority considers the Group nothing but a ginger group, spirit-ing by dubious means an unfair share of voluntary funds away from more deserving charities.

Where the latter state of affairs exists there are almost certainly faults on both sides. The object of this short essay is to point out the great advantage to be gained from good relationships with the local authority; and to plead that every effort should be made to ensure that any absence of such relationships shall not be the fault of the Group.

Good relationships are essential because the local authority is statutorily responsible for the health, education, and welfare of all seriously handicapped people, including spastics. To carry out its duties the authority has skilled officers who know the handicapped people well. The authority also has a fund of administrative expertise, as well as wide knowledge of the benefits available for the handicapped, nationally and locally, statutory and voluntary.

Without access to these advantages it is difficult to see how a local Group can hope to do a good job for the people it is trying to help. And yet there are Groups that have never invited a Local Government Officer to attend a meeting, nor sent a friendly letter to the Chief Officer of a department. Really, such Groups barely deserve to succeed!

Probably the most common difficulty is sheer ignorance, which may be forgivable—to begin with. There are such a lot of local authorities, and they do such a lot of different things. It is not unduly difficult, however, to find out the lie of the land in your own locality. Briefly, the position is as follows.

The authorities responsible for the services most directly affecting spastics are County Councils, County Borough Councils, and London Borough Councils. If you live in a very big town, like Birmingham or Portsmouth, the chances are that it will be a County Borough with immediate control of Local Government functions. If you live in the country or in a small town, the local Council will have many duties to perform, but the services you are most interested in will be administered by the County Council.

The Authority, County or County Borough Council, will have many departments, several of which will affect your work for spastics.

The Education Committee will be responsible for seeing that every child capable of benefiting has the chance of being taught. This may be in an ordinary school, or at one specially designed for children suffering from particular handicaps. A severely disabled child may even be taught at home. Education in one form or another may, in special circumstances, continue until the pupil is 21. Adult and specialist education may go on throughout the rest of one's life.

The Health Committee has doctors, nurses, health visitors, mental welfare officers, all of whom may have duties in connection with spastics, as may home helps if the spastic has a particularly hard-pressed mother.

There are obvious ways in which the Children's Committee may be of help to spastics and their families.

### **Special Accommodation**

Special accommodation for spastics above school age; aids, gadgets, and adaptations; sometimes holidays, handicrafts, and social club facilities may be available from the Welfare Department, whose duty it is to do what it can to help the severely handicapped.

In some areas the functions mentioned may be differently arranged amongst Committees. Sometimes not all the benefits mentioned will be available, and occasionally there will be others. Make it your business to find out what is provided locally, and by whom.

Quite possibly you may think that the local authority should be doing more than it is. So, in all probability, will the members and the officers of the authority itself. They have, however, limited funds with many demands upon them besides those of handicapped people.

Remember that all members of the authority are voluntary workers, giving up, like yourself, many hours of their time without reward. The officers will almost certainly be over-worked; it is unusual for any of the departments mentioned to be fully staffed, or to have anything like enough hours to do all the work considered desirable.

If you go about getting to know the officers of your local authority in the proper manner, you will find that they are just as keen as you on helping handicapped people. They will almost certainly also have a much clearer knowledge of how to do it.

Your local authority may share in the delusion that 'spastic' is a magic word, mere utterance of which produces wider public production of voluntary funds. It is up to you to disabuse them, and to make them understand how hard you have to work for your money, and to what good purposes you put it.

Do your utmost to gain the authorities' co-operation. You may invite one or more Local Government Departments to be represented on your Committee. Do not think too hard of the officers if they decline. They will probably have had invitations from a dozen other voluntary bodies, and it is physically impossible for them to accept the lot.

Equally, no department may feel inclined to make you a grant, no matter how good the work you are doing. On the other hand, there are several things you can reasonably expect the local authority to do for you.

Advice, for example. Professional assistance for the people you are trying to help. Suggestions for the best objectives for your own efforts. A cordial relationship in which you may regard yourself as partners with the authority. Perhaps a bit of typing and duplicating on the side. The use of a room for meetings. There may be other forms of help as well.

You will not get them, however, if you try to tell the authority its job; or offer it criticism instead of help. That way, both the spastics and yourselves will be the losers.

---

## **PLASTIC PANTS**

*PLASTIC PANTS suitable for adults  
(slight seconds)*

Clearance price, unrepeatable

2/- per pair

State waist size

C.W.O. please

**BIMBO PRODUCTS, 84 BURY ROAD,  
HARLOW, Essex**

---

# the Stars in their Courses . .

News of the  
STARS ORGANISATION  
FOR SPASTICS

collected by  
**'THE CALLBOY'**

THE COUNTESS OF WESTMORLAND opened new offices for Regional Pool Promotions in Bristol and while she was away the Earl of Westmorland unfortunately broke his leg tobogganing, members of the S.O.S. wish him a speedy recovery.

\* \* \*

THE WANSTEAD AND WOODFORD Round Table ran a Ball to raise money for the Buckhurst Hill Spastics Clinic and also kindly contributed to the S.O.S. funds, SAM KYDD



David Jacobs who recently visited Wakes Hall, the S.O.S. residential centre in Essex, with John Horsley, is seen here talking to Kenneth William Nott, who puts leak-proof seals in screw bottle-tops

and I went to the Ball and spent our evening persuading people to write their names on the £1 notes for various raffles.

\* \* \*

THE FIRST CALL which ANNE ROGERS and I made on a rainy Thursday night in London, was at the 'Old Ship' in E.8. Here the landlord invited Anne to knock over a small pile of pennies but the centre of the beacon was solidly filled with silver and notes. After a brief, but most enjoyable visit to this House

we rushed to the 'Greyhound' in E.10 where Anne Rogers was received by the landlady, Mrs. Dargon, and her small grand-daughter who helped Anne push over the pile of pennies.

\* \* \*

JEAN AUBREY and I, together with Colonel Powell, the Spastics Society's collector for Wiltshire, visited the 'Jolly Butcher' at Marlborough, where Jean knocked over a pile of pennies which stood from the bar counter to the ceiling. Whilst we counted the money Jean played the darts with the local team. (See the picture on p. 23.)

**THE** Committee of the Stars' Organisation for Spastics are organising a charity performance of 'Funny Girl'. This takes place on the 23rd April with Barbra Streisand starring at the Prince of Wales Theatre. Tickets may be obtained from the Secretary of the S.O.S. at 12 Park Crescent, and prices are 10 gns., 5 gns. and 3 gns. Barbra Streisand is only appearing in this country for a limited run and this may be your only opportunity to see this record-breaking show so book your tickets immediately.

THE S.O.S. is to undertake a Children's Fashion Show in the autumn and to this end the COUNTESS OF WESTMORLAND, ALAN MELVILLE and I, met MICHAEL WHITTAKER at the Dorchester in order to discuss the production. DAVID SIM of 'Pollyana' will design the clothes.

\* \* \*

FOR THE SECOND TIME in 12 months I visited 'The Beaufoy Arms' at Battersea, this time with PETER MURRAY; on the first occasion my visit had been with JACK HOWARTH. Once again, this House had collected £100 and it needed the strong arm of Peter Murray to knock the pile of pennies over. This was in fact so heavy that it went right through the blanket which was being held to catch the pennies in!

*The Callboy*

## BUSY MISS SYMS

A party of residents from Wakes Hall went up to London to see Sylvia Syms in the title role of 'Peter Pan'. Here she is (left) with the Warden, Edward Chapleo, William Moffat, Kenneth Warden, Queenie Hotstetter, Harold Spencer, Blanche Hammond, Hilda Smith and (in front) Mrs. Brett, Mrs. Eade, Jim Dennett (hidden!), Joan Sweeting and Mrs. Percival. Sylvia also went down to Southampton recently to open the new gift centre for Spastics League Club members where she was welcomed by Mr. D. A. Arter



# Mrs. Secombe's Boy, as told to 'SPASTICS NEWS' by himself (vital statistics 49-44-46)



Jovial Harry Secombe was Vice-Chairman of the S.O.S. for two years and became Chairman in November, 1963. When he went to the States in 1965, David Jacobs took over

'MUM AND DAD were renting two rooms in Swansea when I was born on Friday, 8th September, 1921—known locally as Black Friday. They needed both rooms, you see I was a big baby. My brother Fred came first, then me, then our sister Carol; Fred and Carol are quite normal.

'At three I was a delicate child—they called me Wilting Willie in the neighbourhood. Do you know, I was 6ft. 3in. when I was 12—but that was just before I was hit by the lift. As a child I had scarlet fever which left me

shortsighted. I wear glasses except when I'm on stage or television—but so long as there's an audience there I'm happy.

'I went to school in Swansea and joined the church choir. But they changed three organs before they found out what was wrong. I went to a secondary school with Fred where my favourite subjects were English Literature and art—I've employed them both on walls with great effect.

'Then Fred became a minister—he's a rector in Swansea today. I've always called

## ~~~~~ On America ~~~~~

*'The advertising slogan for bullet-proof waistcoats over there is "Buy me and stop one".'*

him the Black Sheep of the family. Came the war and I joined the Army—on our side. I got posted overseas, it was a heavy mail that year and I served in North Africa, Italy and Sicily.

'I'd always been keen on show business and I suppose I really began my career entertaining my mates, often from the back of an open lorry. Later on I was posted to an entertainment unit—it was less costly than putting me behind the guns.

'Instead of going back to my job as a wages clerk in a Swansea steel works, I decided to try my luck at the Windmill. I got a start, but it's no joke carrying sacks of flour up those stairs. £20 a week was my first week's salary, then I got a radio break—I fell off the

wireless and became the only straight singer with a bent leg.

'By this time I had met Myra and the Goons—not that there's any connection. Soon

## ~~~~~ On Tropical Fish ~~~~~

*'They're nice with chips. Trouble is they don't wait for their chips. They eat each other.'*

afterwards I was married to Myra by my brother Fred. He was out of work at the time. Give him a hand, I thought, he's free for weddings. Does a good job, too. Cheap, clean collar, and prepared to travel. The following year he christened our daughter, Jennifer (she's 13 now) and since then Andrew and David. We've also got a boxer dog and a tankful of tropical fish, but Fred hasn't got round to Christening them yet.

'I spent the next few years consolidating—I put on three stone—but soon I had more work than I could handle with variety, pantomime and summer shows keeping me busy

## ~~~~~ On Books ~~~~~

*'Do you know how Webster's Dictionary first began? Mr. Webster rowed with Mrs. Webster and one word led to another.'*

from Monday to Saturday and radio shows occupying my time on Sundays.

'One of the best things I ever did was to have my voice trained under the late Manlio di Veroli. He said I had a four-octave lyrical spinto voice, I told him that I thought it sounded a sure thing for the 2.30.

'A lot of writers have described me as a comic at the crossroads. Who do they think I am? Fidel Castro? Because I mix my goonery with grand opera, they suppose that I am undecided about my future. Believe me, I'm not likely to change from my policy of mixing comedy and singing while it proves successful. True, opera is a wonderful medium, but I get a great deal of enjoyment out of making people laugh. Apart from this, it keeps my bank manager on speaking terms with me.'



## The S.O.S. in Committee

(Left to right, top picture): Mary Peach, Pierre Pictou, Derrick de Marney, Hy Hazel, Edward Underdown, Donald Houston, Diane Hart, John Horsley, (at back) Partick Cargill, Frank Nesbitt. (Right, left to right round the table): Peter Murray, Don Moss, Sheila Rawstorne, David Jacobs, Miles Manderson, Vera Lynn, Carol Marsh, J. Loring, Charles Farrell, Jan Holden, Alan Melville, Dr. C. P. Stevens, Diane Hart, Murray Kash, Ronald Leigh Hunt, Jean Aubrey, David Sumner, Gaie Sharples, W. A. Burn, Avril Angers, Stella Moray





raising the wind

## FORE!

Reproduced by courtesy of the Editor, *Evening News*

By Maurice Hart

THE CURRENT GOLFING rage is to take a No. 3 iron and see if you can carry the River Thames! The area is at Chiswick Reach where the distance from the teeing ground on the Middlesex side to the Surrey side is 175 yards.

Already many thousands of golf balls have been collected from Clubs in the London area and Home Counties for the launching of this open-to-all test in the spring. Coachloads of contenders are booked to arrive from Finchley, Hendon, Sudbury and other Clubs. The entry fee is 2s. per ball and the prizes for those accomplishing the feat are pints of beer from the neighbouring pubs.

It is a charity effort with the proceeds being devoted to Spastic children.

One who has seen this river-shot at previous challenge matches tells me that a professional would probably hit eight out of ten balls on to a safe landing spot. A long handicap amateur might well lose half this number in the water with a No. 3 iron, which is the club demanded by the rules.

While the shot looks fairly simple the Surrey bank is, in fact, about nine feet higher than the driving point. So the ball must be hit fairly high to find the other side. It will be hard to emulate Richard Murdoch's shot of three years ago, when his ball landed on the deck of a passing steamer!

### NOT SO 'STONY-HEARTED'

MR. R. S. W. YOUNG, Hon. Sec. of the Tees-side Parents and Friends of Spastics, writes to say that the N.E. Region of British Railways have granted the Society a place for a Christmas Tree at Middlesbrough Station for the last thirteen years. During that time they have enjoyed the fullest co-operation and assistance of the British Railways staff and

have collected over £1,500 from the travelling public.

\* \* \*

### MAIDSTONE ATTACK OF HAY FEVER

STUDENTS of Maidstone Technical College put on 'Hay Fever', one of Noel Coward's most popular comedies, and the proceeds from all tickets sold by members of the Maidstone Area Group went to the Society. At 2s. 6d. and 4s. a ticket, £15 was raised and the Group wish their gratitude to the Graham Players for their kind effort to be known.

\* \* \*

### ILFORD AND ROMFORD DISTRICT FASHION SHOW

MRS. CECILY McCaul in her 'newsy' Newsletter recounts a hectic year that has passed and looks forward to further activities, social, fund-raising, and administrative in 1966.

Over all looms the problem of obtaining a new site for the Centre which she has run with such inexhaustible energy for so many years. Their lease is running out but the Council has offered a site near Ilford Station that may well be suitable if various snags can be overcome.

£10,000 must be raised, and Mrs. McCaul is very much hoping to get some way towards the target as a result of a Fashion Show generously presented by Marks and Spencer (more news of this next month).

\* \* \*

### E. MIDLANDS—WITH BEARDS!

SO FAR four members of the Bearded Club have sprouted, they hope to persuade 100 men to abandon the razor. Their aim—to raise money for spastics.

The Traction Rally at Carnival showed £1,000 profit. The Annual Ball will be held at Sherwood Rooms, Nottingham, on Thursday, 31st March. Book your tickets now.

\* \* \*

### BEDFORD RAISED EYEBROWS

ABOUT £1,100 WAS RAISED at a bazaar arranged by the Bedford and District branch of

The Spastics Society at the Corn Exchange, Bedford, on Saturday.

This is well in excess of the target of £1,000 which was aimed at by officials.

For the first time ever members of the '62 Club (the young adults) produced and ran a stall at the event. Competition organisers were Mrs. Zbrozik and Miss S. Nash. Other helpers at the event were pupils from schools in Bedford.

## Teaching the Cerebral Palsied Child

Proceedings of a Study Group at Grey College, Durham, April 1965

Foreword by Prof. Jack Tizard

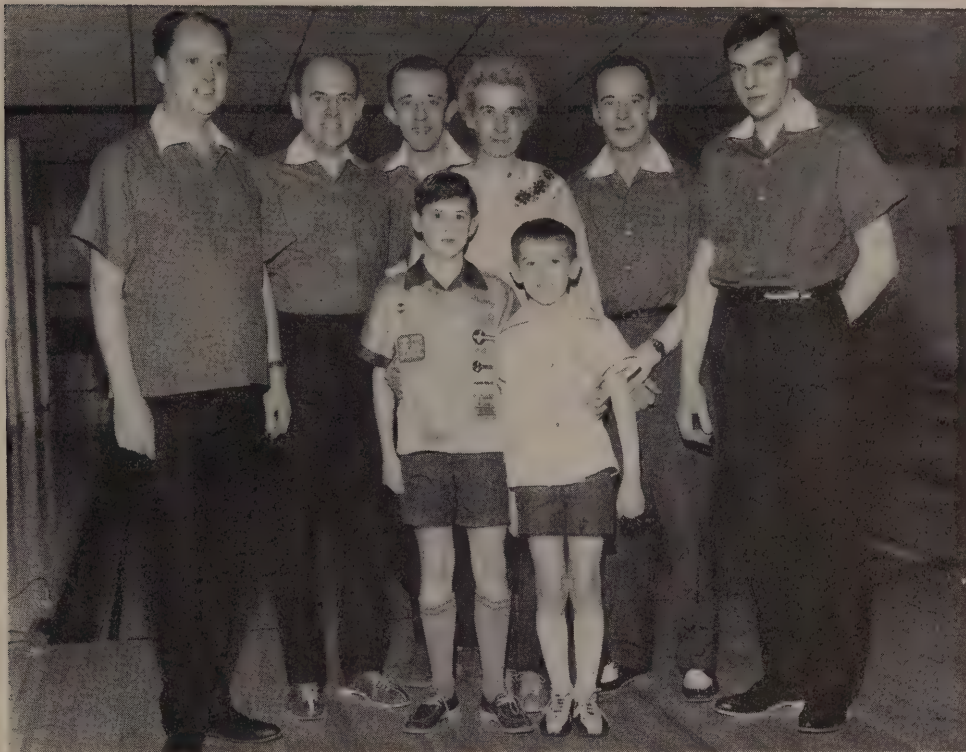
Edited by James Loring

246 pages (illustrated)

Price 15s. (\$2.50)

Published by The Spastics Society in association with William Heineman 1965

# THE FIVE COMETS GO INTO ORBIT



*Mrs. N. Wilson with the gallant five (left to right): Messrs. J. Francis, J. Wilson, R. Landels, R. Buchanan and N. Wilson. In front on left a junior from Tolworth, and on right, Gordon Wilson who always plays an exhibition game at the Team's matches*

## The Society Adopts a Ten-Pin Bowling Team

### Mrs. Wilson's Successful Initiative

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY has recently decided to adopt a Tenpin Bowling Team known as 'The Five Comets'. This team is due to play eight Exhibition Matches against teams of celebrities of outstanding Tenpin Bowling ability in the next twelve months.

The story behind this venture will be of interest to readers.

Early in 1965 Mrs. Wilson who lives in Middlesbrough, raised a Tenpin Bowling Team to play Exhibition Matches and at these games collections were taken on behalf of funds for Spastic children. Mrs. Wilson and the members of her team devoted much of their leisure time to this fund-raising effort which was not established without financial cost to those concerned. As a result of the team's efforts during 1965 it became clear that the venture was gaining valuable publicity and advantageous propaganda for the cause of Spastics as well as raising funds.

It also became apparent that the scope of the venture could be extended through the assistance of Excel Bowl Ltd. and other Tenpin Bowling managements. If advantage was to be taken of this situation it had become necessary for the arrangements in connection with Exhibition Matches to be carefully co-

ordinated so that the greatest possible advantage would be obtained. Consequently The Society, after most careful consideration of all the circumstances, decided to adopt the scheme in aid of central funds to be devoted, in accordance with Mrs. Wilson's wish, to the aid of Spastic children.

The responsibility for the arrangements in connection with all the events undertaken by The Five Comets is now in the hands of Mr. A. R. M. Edwards the Senior Regional Officer (North) at Royal Chambers, Station Parade, Harrogate, and he will be communicating with the Regional Officers and the Groups in whose territory the matches are to be played.

The last of the matches to be played before the new arrangements in connection with this venture came into force took place at the Excel Bowl, Piccadilly, on 2nd January, 1966, when The Five Comets were successful in beating teams from the Black and White Minstrels who are keen Tenpin Bowlers.

During the past year Groups in whose areas matches have taken place have given the venture their full support, and it is interesting that through these and other efforts of Mrs. Wilson arrangements can be made for

spastics to enjoy this sport. At Sunderland and Middlesbrough the spastics of the Groups regularly take part in Tenpin Bowling sessions from which they undoubtedly obtain great enjoyment. These sessions provide the spastics not only with the pleasure of the game but the opportunity of social contacts which they would not otherwise enjoy. If any Group is interested in obtaining information in this regard Mr. Edwards will be very pleased to answer enquiries. This year's programme is as follows:

Doncaster	—	17th April, 1966
Reading	—	29th May, 1966
Leeds	—	10th July, 1966
Cliftonville	—	28th August, 1966
Nottingham	—	16th October, 1966
Walkden	—	27th November, 1966
Tolworth	—	31st December, 1966- 1st January, 1967

All these games will be played at the Excel Bowls at the places in question and will commence at 8 p.m.

We are confident that this venture will be given every support by Groups in whose area Exhibition Matches are to be played this year.

# FLASH a in NEWS



## THEY'LL DO ANYTHING— FOR SPASTICS!

Into the tackle charge the Lewisham Lovelies—and everyone fights for the football in a way that would bring frowns to any team manager.

There was little finesse in this match (seen above), though the girls' team—trainee nurses from Lewisham Hospital—did win 7-1. For a good reason.

The **GIRLS** were allowed to trip, Rugby-tackle, tickle, carry the ball and throw anything at the opposition.

The **MEN** had to stick to soccer rules.

At the end, bruised and smiling, the men of St. John Amateur Soccer team, also from the Lewisham area, limped off.

The game was in aid of spastic children.

**FOOT NOTE**—After the kicking had to stop each girl gave each man a kiss.

(Courtesy: The Daily Sketch)



## NEW HEADQUARTERS FOR SPASTICS LEAGUE CLUB

New premises were opened at Stokes Croft by Lady Westmorland, a patron of the Society, in January. She is here seen being presented with two cheques for £250 by the Lord Mayor of Bristol, Alderman Tom Martin, accompanied by the Director, Dr. C. P. Stevens. These are donations from the Good Neighbour Trust and the Van Neste Foundation towards a new home for adults planned by the S.O.S.

The Club operates a bonus gift scheme through which more than 40,000 members receive a gift each week.

(Courtesy: Bristol Evening Post)

## THE DALEKS ARE HERE!

This picture (squeezed out of a previous issue) shows some local apprentices out in force to raise funds for the West Bromwich & District Spastics Society. 'Well done, you chaps, take me to your leader!'

(Photo: Courtesy Express & Star, Wolverhampton)



## TRICYCLE FOR BERNADETTE

A wonderful new year send off for 8-year-old Bernadette Coles of 1 Princes Gardens, Exeter, was the gift of a tricycle by the 16th Emmanuel Wolf Cubs as their effort to mark the Wolf Cubs jubilee this year (right).

(Courtesy: Exeter Express & Echo)

## JOLLY GOOD SHOW AT THE 'JOLLY BUTCHER'

With a gentle prod from television personality Jean Aubrey, and a heavy shove from Swindon Town footballer, Keith Morgan, a huge pile of more than 12,000 pennies crashes to the floor at the 'Jolly Butcher', Marlborough. 'What a really marvellous pile,' said Miss Aubrey (below), who is well-known for her Emergency Ward 10 appearances. The pennies—more than £52 worth—had been collected by the customers during the past 18 months for the Spastics Society. It was, in fact, the public house's third pile of pennies—they have already given nearly £60 over the past three years. The customers 'have really taken this charity to their hearts and I would like to thank them all,' said the licensee, Mr. Peter Bright, who was presented with a Beacon Club tie by Miss Aubrey. His wife, Mrs. Betty Bright, received a Beacon Club brooch and their 11-year-old daughter, Susan, presented Miss Aubrey with a box of chocolates. Sixty customers turned up to watch the ceremony and among the guests were the national secretary of the Spastics Society, Miss A. Rawstorne, and the Area Secretary and his wife, Col. and Mrs. A. O. Powell, from Oxford.

(Courtesy: Swindon Evening Advertiser)



## BRONZE MEDAL FOR JOHNNY

15-year-old Johnny Chubb, of Bude, is now a Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award winner. Although confined to a wheel-chair he covered the mile, going backwards, in 1 hour 10 mins. He completed the 440-yard sprint in 9 minutes, and after practising for 3 months he passed a football dribbling test. He has also camped overnight on Dartmoor, done a 'weight on hands' test and—with the aid of an electric typewriter—written a story about his school's science club which he started. That's perseverance!

(Courtesy: South Devon Journal)



## EMPLOYMENT NEWS

**MARGARET ANDERSON** from Stalybridge, has changed her job and is working as an assembler in Glossop. The firm is a manufacturing concern making air-sea rescue equipment.

**HAZEL BARKER** from Farnborough, who trained at Sherrards, is doing general clerical work for Thompson Directories.

**DAVID BEEBEE** from Chigwell, has changed his job and is now working on a trial basis as an indoor messenger for the Central Electricity Generating Board in London, S.E.1.

**MARGARET BROWN** from Egham, has commenced a trial period of employment as a telephonist at the Woodless Industrial Rehabilitation Unit, Egham.

**MARTIN CRAWFORD** from Sutton Bonington, has been working since June, 1965, as a laboratory assistant at the Nottingham University College of Agriculture.

**DAVID FRENCH** from Eastbourne, has been training in the assembly department of Messrs. Photax Ltd., since July, 1965.

**ELAINE HAIGH** from Bradford, has changed her work and returned to a former job as a Tickopres operator for a small local firm.

**FRANCES HAZELHURST** from Wallasey, who trained at Sherrards, has changed her job and is working as a machine caramel wrapper for a firm of wholesale confectioners.

**MAURICE KING** from Norwich, has been working for some time for a local packing firm.

**CHRISTINE LAWLESS** from Newport, Mon., has a new job as a packer for a local wholesale tobacco firm.

**MARGARET LINDSAY** from Spalding, is working as a sorting and filing clerk for a local firm.

**DAWN MONCASTER** from Nottingham, is working for a firm manufacturing plastic products. She is weighing and sorting small parts.

**GRAHAM PRICE** from Cardiff, is working as a van boy for a local laundry.

**VICTOR SEOGALUDZE** from Bridport, has been working since last summer for a local firm manufacturing rope, lines and nets.

**ROBERT SMITH** from Romford, who trained at Sherrards, is employed as a capstan lathe operator by Messrs. Fletcher, Brock & Collis.

**ANN SWIFFEN** from Bideford, has changed her job and is now employed as an invoice clerk by Messrs. Woolworth, Norbury. She trained at the Chester Office Training Centre.

### MARRIAGE

Congratulations to **JOAN DEANS** of Salford, who married recently and is now Mrs. **BOYD**.

## HOW TO TYPE RIGHT WITH THE POSSUM

I HAVE BEEN ASKED to write an article on the *Possum* typewriter. I am unable to tell you how it works, but I will endeavour to describe my personal feelings on it.

After two months waiting for it to come, my first impression was, 'What a queer thing!' At first, we thought I would have to operate it with a micro switch, but after I had experimented with the two switches which had come with the *Possum* I found that I could operate it better by the breath control. This device is a long tube fixed to the trolley of the *Possum*, at the end of the tube there is a mouth-piece. The second control is worked by foot, but it works on the same principle as the first.

After practising on the machine for about a fortnight with the special code I found that I had memorised it. I am just starting to pick up speed, and I hope to be able to increase my speed in time. Since I started using the *Possum*, my speech therapists have remarked on how my breathing has improved.

I would like to tell you a little story which I heard the other day about a girl who had polio. The girl was unable to swallow for five years, but after a year's work on the *Possum* typewriter by breath control she found that she could swallow again.

So you see, the *Possum* does other things to help us, besides its original aims.

LINTON EDWARDS (Ponds).

## BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER●●●●●

### MARCH

1st	Services Memorial Club, Carnarvon Rd., Clacton-on-Sea	J. Gardner and J. Rea
2nd	No. 1 Coy. Training Batt., Tournai Barracks, Aldershot	J. Gardner and J. Rea
3rd	Amblecote Inst., Collis St., Amblecote, Stourbridge	R. Williams and F. Davis
3rd	Hollingbury Park Golf Club, Brighton	J. Gardner and J. Rea
4th	Audco Sports Club, Newport, Shropshire	R. Williams and F. Davis
5th	Kinson Cons. Club, Kinson, Bournemouth, Hants.	J. Gardner and J. Rea
7th	Lidget Green Cons., Legrams Lane, Bradford	J. Rea
8th	Ex-Service Club, Station Rd., Wallsend, Northumberland	J. Rea
9th	Haughton le Skerne Wkms., 25 The Green, Darlington	J. Rea
10th	St. Anthony's Catholic Club, Fulwood, Preston	J. Rea
11th	Gidlow and Beech Hill Labour, Gidlow Lane, Beech Hill, Wigan	J. Rea
14th	Rochdale Catholic Club, Ann St., Rochdale	J. Rea
15th	North Leeds Wkms., Lincoln Green Rd., Leeds	J. Rea
15th	Friendly Society Club, Camden Rd., Tunbridge Wells, Kent	F. Davis
16th	Caledonian Corks Club, Golden Hillock Rd., Small Heath, Birmingham	J. Gardner and R. Williams
17th	Salisbury Cons., Monmouth St., Middleton, Manchester	J. Rea
18th	British Legion, Town End, Caterham, Surrey	J. Gardner and F. Davis
18th	Dane St., Social Club, Dane St., Rochdale	J. Rea
21st	Hindley Green Social, Atherton Rd., Hindley Green, Wigan	J. Gardner and J. Rea
22nd	Walkden Labour, Cecil St., Walkden, Manchester	J. Gardner and J. Rea
23rd	Hollins Grove Cons., Bolton Rd., Darwin, Lancs.	J. Gardner and J. Rea
24th	Smithills Cons., Chorley Old Rd., Bolton, Lancs	J. Gardner and J. Rea
24th	Flint Cons., Earl St., Flint, North Wales	R. Williams
25th	Walkden Cons., Langleys Rd., Walkden, Manchester	J. Gardner and J. Rea
25th	Courtaulds Sports Club, Holywell, Flints, N. Wales	R. Williams
29th	Nottingham Mechanics Club, Nottingham	J. Rea and K. Kennerley
30th	Army Apprentice School, Aborfield Camp, nr. Reading	J. Gardner and J. Rea

# L

## ETTERS

### TO THE

## EDITOR



### NEED FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

Dear Editor,

With reference to the article 'The Need for Occupational Therapy' which was published in SPASTICS NEWS for January.

I completely agree with Rosemary Jenkins that there should be occupational therapy available in centres and schools catering for handicapped children.

I appreciate the value of the work done by occupational therapists, having worked in general hospitals, residential and day centres for spastics, and learned of the wide range of activities in which they are actively concerned.

I should like to see occupational therapists employed in all special schools and establishments teaching and training handicapped children.

Yours sincerely, CHAS. P. D. GREENHALL, F.R.A.P.T., M.S.R.G., 20 North Kilmeny, Cres. Wishaw, Lanarkshire.

### THEY WON'T NEED TO WRITE NOW

Dear Editor,

Thank you for finding me a pen friend. I have got a very nice young man now, he goes to Hull university to study for his B.Sc. (Economics). He is 28-years-old and he is a slight spastic. I thought you would like to know that I have quite a number of pen friends through SPASTICS NEWS. Terry and I are getting engaged next Saturday, February the 5th. I am enclosing a photograph of us taken in my garden. (See p. 12.)

Best wishes, BARBARA ROBERTS, 46 Tamworth Lane, Mitcham, Surrey.

### LA PLUME DE MON AMI

Dear Editor,

A short while ago we had a telephone conversation with a Mr. and Mrs. Bloom of 273

Kingsway, Gatley, Cheadle, Ches. (Telephone Gatley 6559), who had been clearing some old correspondence and came across the name and address of a French girl (aged 18) they had met with her parents, whilst on holiday last year.

The name and address are as follows: Patricia Crapez, 33 Rue Gay Lussac, Arcueil, Seine, France.

According to Mr. and Mrs. Bloom, Patricia is a spastic and would like to have an English pen friend. Do you think SPASTICS NEWS can help, please? Best wishes.

Yours sincerely, E. M. MILNES (Mrs.), Hon. Sec., Manchester District Spastics Society.

(Come on you French scholars!—EDITOR).

### LOCAL SUPPORT IN BRIGHTON

Dear Editor,

We refer to your article in the January issue of SPASTICS NEWS, 'Tapping Teenage Reserves of Human Kindness', by R. A. Lewis, in which reference is made to our Day Centre, Hamilton House, Hove.

We should like it to be known that many local schools do support our charity in various ways; by helping with our appeals events, by organising their own events to assist us financially and by the collection of tinfoil.

We fully understand that your speaker had in mind help of a more direct and personal nature, particularly from teenage girls. This kind help is continually being fostered, but with little success up to the present time. The physical and mental handicaps of the spastic

### VERY POLISHED IS YOUNG RAY!



Under this heading in Kentish Independent appeared the picture of Ray Wood, 17, who works as a polisher for Libraco. He is also an expert swimmer, and has won several prizes. He is a possible competitor in the 1966 National Spastics Games—as a swimmer

child are not readily accepted by the teenager, and if a child is unable to respond in a normal way, the initial interest dies.

Experience tells us that only those who are destined for the Social Services or Nursing profession continue in their enthusiasm to help.

A persistent determined effort on our part, may one day bring about the desired result.

Yours sincerely, L. M. MIDDLEMASS, S.R.N. (Miss), Administrator, Brighton, Hove and District Spastics Society.

### THANKS

Thanks to the generosity of people in parts of rural Shropshire, Mr. George Evans of the Shrewsbury & District Spastics Group reports a record £643 16s. 3d. raised at Whist Drives and other local activities.

### BEAUTIFUL GIFTS

Dear Editor,

May I through the SPASTICS NEWS please thank the following for their beautiful gifts received on the occasion of my recent marriage:—

1. Arundel Hotel Management Committee;
2. Colleagues in the Schools, Centres and Hotels, and at Head Office;
3. Employment and Holiday Organiser's departments;
4. East London Group Management Committee (this Group founded the hotel);
5. Arundel Hotel Staff.

I would also like to thank those visitors to the hotel who sent presents, also senders of telegrams and cards. Your kindness and generosity is very much appreciated by my husband and myself.

We are surrounded by so much that will always remind me of my happy association with you all.

Yours sincerely, MARY JARRATT (née Burden), (Late Manageress, Arundel Hotel), Muirlinch, Leatherhead, Surrey.

### AN IRISHMAN WITH HUMOUR AND GRATITUDE

Dear Editor,

As a spastic from Northern Ireland, I should like to thank everyone concerned who has had a part in caring for me since June, 1959. Owing to circumstances at home, I had to make the big decision of whether to leave, and start a new life in fairness to everyone concerned or not. When I confronted my family with my news, it was not received very graciously at first, but eventually they came round to my way of reasoning, and so I set the ball rolling. Being very heavily handicapped since birth, I've had to rely on friends to get me to England, since there was no spastic home in Northern Ireland for my age group. Thanks to the Warden at Prested Hall, who is a born organiser, I was able to go to the Grange. Knowing that I am as fond of classical music as he is, I used to go to The Festival Hall in London to many a concert, and with his co-operation I was able



*A group of staff from 12 Park Crescent spent two days at Castle Priory Training College in January learning from Mrs. J. W. Knowles, the Principal, and Mr. Johnson, about the Society's organisation and cerebral palsy (left to right), Miss B. C. Broom, E. Dunnett (Bursar), A. W. Jones (Librarian), R. S. Johnson, Miss E. M. Sampson (Catering), W. R. Sutton, Miss Jean Sheriff, Peter Jordan, Miss Valerie Barnard, Miss Sally Osborne and Oliver Beckett (Editor, SPASTICS NEWS)*

to build up a record library of my favourite music such as opera.

During my stay at 'The Grange', I sat outdoors during the summer, as being heavily handicapped, I was denied joining the other residents in their workroom, so I made some good friends among the village community, who accepted me as one of themselves. Fortunately, I have a good sense of humour which helps me to make friends easily, I even had two little school girls who came and took me in my chair for walks and picnics. Eventually these two girls actually joined the staff at The Grange and Prested Hall.

After six-and-a-half-years, I had a transfer to Wakes Hall, and it has exceeded all my expectations. It stands in its own grounds with a most beautiful view from the front of the house, and I should like to express here my deep gratitude to the Warden and his wonderful staff for making me so happy and content. To my great delight when I arrived at Wakes Hall I found that one of the Housefathers is a Co. Antrim man—you can imagine the Irish humour that passes between us.

Also I should like to express my sincere thanks to the Housemothers, for instance, one of them gave up her free day, and took me to Colchester, I had a run round the shops in my chair, which was put into the guard's van of the Colchester train, after the shopping expedition we had dinner, and then a visit to the cinema.

Then after a Lyon's teashop tea, we adjourned to the Castle Park, and then eventually made our way homewards, this to any normal person may seem an everyday occurrence but to me it was an outstanding event, which will not be forgotten very easily.

Best wishes to all from The Irishman, AUSTIN BYRNE, Wakes Hall, nr. Colchester, Essex.

#### **PEN FRIENDS . . . collects records**

Dear Editor,

I am 34 years of age, and I would like the name and address of a girl Pen Friend of about my age if possible. My hobbies are

collecting records, reading, and handicraft work. I am not working just now as my disablement will not allow me to, but I am hoping to go to a Training Centre to see if they can try to find me some work to occupy my mind. I cannot walk very far unless I have some support. I will be very grateful to hear from some kind person.

Yours sincerely, ALLAN SMITH, 27 Sandfield Road, Bacup, Lancs.

#### **. . . interested in swimming**

Dear Editor,

I would like to get in touch with a man pen-friend. I would prefer someone between the age of 33 and 37 who is interested in swimming, table tennis, TV, and reading.

If possible I would like an English-speaking European.

Yours sincerely, DIANE GACHE (Miss), Jacques Hall Spastic Centre, Bradfield, nr. Manningtree, Essex.

#### **. . . collects for SPASTICS NEWS**

MR. E. BRERETON who sells 400 copies of SPASTICS NEWS a month in his spare-time, writes for a spastic friend, who was in hospital for 30 years but is now able to get about under his own steam. He is slow in his speech but can be understood, C. of E., with no relatives, would like to hear from a lady.

John Bonser, 58 Daisy Bank Road, Victoria Park, Manchester 14.

#### **. . . woodwork in spare time**

SLIGHTLY spastic, at work all day. Spare-time activities, woodwork and record collecting. Thirty years old, seeks pen friend.

John Bellamy, 22 Birch Meadow, Broseley, Shropshire.

**Correction:** *A Chelsea get-together* (February SPASTICS NEWS)

MISS M. HOWARD writes to say that the Hospital is called the Centre for Spastic Children, and that her Holiday Club is affiliated to the Friends of the Centre.

**MARRIED COUPLE** required to take charge of special cottage for six educationally retarded boys and girls aged 8-14 years who attend a day Training Centre at Barkingside, Ilford, Essex. Some experience of work with E.S.N. children essential. Joint salary scale, £770-£1,070 p.a., with full board residence. Pension Scheme. Regret no accommodation for staff children. Applicants should be in sympathy with the Christian basis of the work. Please apply to Dr. J. D. Knight, Dr. Barnardo's, Stepney Causeway, London, E.1.

#### **ORDERS FOR KNITTING WELCOMED**

MISS JANE REED, a spastic member of the East Sussex group does 'very nice work' on a knitting machine, and would welcome orders. Her address: 33 Upper Broomgrove Road, Hastings, Sussex.

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Principal and Director of Studies:  
Mrs. J. W. Knowles, B.A.

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 Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness Spastics Society **WORTH**  
 Darlington and District Spastics Society **H**  
 Durham and District Spastics Society  
 South Shields and District Spastics Society **C**  
 Sunderland and District Spastics Society **CW**  
 Tees-side Parents and Friends of Spastics **TE**

### Regional Officer:

Miss E. O'Kelly, 145 Front St., Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham. Tel.: 2852

## YORKSHIRE REGION

Barnsley and District Association **C**  
 Bradford and District Branch **R**  
 Castleford and District Spastics Committee  
 Dewsbury and District Spastics Society  
 Goole and District Spastics Association  
 Halifax and District Spastics Society **W**  
 Huddersfield and District Spastics Society **O**  
 Hull Group, The Friends of the Spastics Society in Hull and District **H**  
 Leeds and District Spastics Society **O**  
 Pontefract and District Spastics Association  
 Rawmarsh and Parkgate Spastics Society  
 Sheffield and District Spastics Society **TOC**  
 York and District Spastics Group **TC**

### Regional Officer:

Mr. R. J. F. Whyte, Royal Chambers, Station Parade, Harrogate. Tel.: 69655.

## NORTH-WESTERN REGION

Birkenhead Spastic Children's Society **TEOC**  
 Blackburn and District Spastics Group **TC**  
 Blackpool and Fylde Spastics Society **O**  
 Bollington, Macclesfield and District Group  
 Bolton and District Spastics Society **TE**  
 Burnley Area and Rossendale Spastics Group **T**  
 Caernarvonshire Spastics and Handicapped Peoples' Society  
 Chester and District Spastics Association **TCE**  
 Colwyn Bay and District Spastics Society  
 Crewe and District Spastics Society **TO**  
 Crosby, Bootle, Litherland & District Spastics Society **C**  
 Flint and District Spastics Society  
 Lancaster, Morecambe and District Spastics Soc.  
 Manchester and District Spastics Society **TCE**  
 Montgomeryshire Spastics Society  
 Oldham and District Spastics Society **OCT**  
 Preston and District Spastics Group **OCT**  
 Sale, Altrincham and District Spastics Society

**RTEC**

Southport, Formby and District Spastics Soc. **H**  
 Stockport, East Cheshire and High Peak Spastics Society **TEOC**  
 Urmston and District Group **TC**  
 Warrington and District Group for the Welfare of Spastics **O**  
 Widnes Spastic Fellowship Group  
 Wigan and District Spastics Society

### Acting Regional Officer:

Mr. F. Young, Room 481, 4th Floor, St. James' Buildings, Oxford Street, Manchester 1. Tel.: Central 2088, and at 6 King's Buildings, Chester. Tel.: 27127

### Regional Social Worker:

Mrs. M. Moncaster, Room 481, 4th Floor, St. James' Buildings, Oxford Street, Manchester 1. Tel.: Central 2088.

## EAST MIDLAND REGION

Boston District Branch  
 Chesterfield and District Spastics Society **TOC**  
 Derby and District Spastics Society **T**  
 Grantham and District Friends of Spastics  
 Grimsby, Cleethorpes and District Friends of Spastics Society  
 Leicester and Leicestershire Spastics Society **TC**  
 Lincoln and District Spastics Society  
 Loughborough and District Spastics Society  
 Mansfield and District Friends of Spastics Group **O**  
 Newark Area Spastics Society  
 Northampton and County Spastics Society **TE**  
 Nottingham and District Friends of Spastics Group **TEC**  
 Scunthorpe and District Spastic Society  
 Stamford and District Spastics Society

### Regional Officer:

Mr. T. H. O'Neill, 9 Regent Street, Nottingham. Tel.: 42198 and 42463

### Regional Social Worker:

Mrs. M. Lane, same address

## WEST MIDLAND REGION

Coventry and District Spastics Society **WO**  
 Dudley and District Spastic Group **TOC**  
 Herefordshire Spastics Society  
 Kidderminster and District Spastics Association  
 Midland Spastic Association **TEOWC**  
 North Staffordshire Spastic Association **TO**  
 Shrewsbury and District Spastics Group **H**  
 Stafford and District Spastic Association **T**  
 West Bromwich and District Spastics Society  
 Wolverhampton and District Spastics Society

### Regional Officer:

Mr. I. C. R. Archibald, 109 Colmore Row, Birmingham 3. Tel.: Central 3162

### Senior Welfare Officer, M.S.A. (Birmingham & Worcestershire areas):

Mrs. N. M. Barrett, 15 Victoria Road, Harborne, Birmingham 17. Tel.: Harborne 3182 and 2458

## SOUTH WALES REGION (including Mon.)

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 Kenfig Hill and District Spastics Society **CTO**  
 Merthyr Tydfil and District Spastics Society  
 Monmouthshire Spastics Society  
 Pembrokeshire Spastics Society  
 Pontypridd and District Group  
 Swansea and District Spastics Assoc. **TECW**

### Regional Officer:

Mr. B. Kingsley-Davies, 2 Saunders Road, Cardiff. Tel.: 25725

### Regional Social Worker:

Miss A. M. Davey, 2 Saunders Road, Cardiff. Tel.: 29289

## WESTERN REGION

Bath and District Spastics Society  
 Bridgwater and District Friends of Spastics Association **T**  
 Bristol Spastics Association **CTOW**  
 Cornish Spastics Society  
 Exeter and Torbay Spastics Society **T**  
 Plymouth Spastic (CP) Association **COETW**  
 Weston and District Society for the Spastic and Mentally Handicapped **TR**  
 Yeovil and District Spastics Welfare Society

### Regional Officer:

Mr. D. S. Hutcheson, St. John House, 60 Staplegrove Rd., Taunton, Somerset. Tel.: 81678

## EAST ANGLIA REGION

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 Clacton and District Group  
 Colchester and District Group  
 Essex Group  
 Ipswich and East Suffolk Branch **TW**  
 Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Spastics Society  
 Lowestoft and N.E. Suffolk Spastics Society  
 Norfolk and Norwich Spastics Association **W**  
 Peterborough & District Group Spastics Soc. **O**  
 Southend-on-Sea and District Spastics Soc. **OC**  
 Thurrock and District Spastics Society

### Regional Officer:

Mr. H. G. Knight, 51 Newnham Road, Cambridge. Tel.: 61747

### Regional Social Worker:

Miss H. M. Day, 51 Newnham Rd., Cambridge. Tel.: 54531

## WESSEX REGION

Andover and District Spastics Society  
 Basingstoke and District Spastics Society  
 Bournemouth, Poole and District Spastics Society **CTE**  
 Cheltenham Spastics Association **ETC**  
 Gloucester and District Spastics Association  
 Isle of Wight Spastics Society **TE**  
 Portsmouth and District Spastics Society **W**  
 Salisbury and District Friends of Spastics  
 Southampton and District Spastics Association **TOWCE**

Swindon and District Spastic Society **H**  
 Winchester and District Spastics Society

### Regional Officer:

Miss C. Mould, 7 St. John Street, Salisbury. Tel.: 4521

Mr. R. Jenkinson, same address

## NORTHERN HOME COUNTIES REGION

Bedford and District Branch **TOWEC**  
 Bishop's Stortford and District Group, Herts Spastics Society

Central Middlesex Spastics Welfare Society  
 East Herts Group, Herts Spastics Society  
 East London Spastic Society  
 Epping Forest and District Branch  
 Friends of Ponds Home  
 Hatfield and District Spastics Society  
 Hemel Hempstead and District Group, Herts  
 Spastics Society  
 Hitchin, Letchworth and Stevenage Spastics  
 Society  
 Ilford, Romford and District Spastics Assoc.  
 Luton, Dunstable and District Spastics Group  
 Maidenhead Friends of Spastics Group  
 Oxfordshire Spastics Welfare Society  
 Reading and Berkshire Spastics Welfare Soc.  
 Slough and District Spastics Welfare Society  
 South-West Middlesex Group  
 St. Albans and District Group, Herts Spastics  
 Society  
 Walthamstow and District Spastics Society  
 Watford and District Group, Herts Spastics  
 Society  
 Welwyn Garden City and District Group, Herts  
 Spastics Society  
 Wycombe and District Spastics Society

Central Surrey Group  
 Croydon and District Spastics Society  
 East Sussex Group  
 Folkestone Group  
 Horsham, Crawley and District Spastic Society  
 Maidstone Area Spastic Group  
 Medway Towns Branch  
 North Hants and West Surrey Group  
 North Surrey Group  
 North-West Kent Spastics Group  
 North-West Surrey Group  
 South-East Surrey Group  
 South-West Surrey Group  
 Thanet Group  
 Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Area Group  
 West Kent Spastics Society  
 West Sussex Spastics Group  
 Worthing, Littlehampton & District Spastics  
 Society

#### Regional Officer:

Mr. H. J. I. Cunningham, 29b Linkfield Lane,  
 Redhill, Surrey. Tel.: Redhill 63944 and 62250

#### Regional Social Worker:

Mrs. Vera Chinchin, same address

#### LONDON REGION (provisional)

North London Area Association of Parents and  
 Friends of Spastics  
 North-West London Spastics Society  
 South-East London Group  
 South London Group  
 South-West London and District Group

#### Regional Officer:

Mrs. Patricia Latham, 28 Fitzroy Square, Lon-  
 don, W.1. Tel.: EUSon 2436/7

Guernsey Spastics Society  
 Jersey Spastics Society  
 Northern Ireland Council for Orthopaedic  
 Development (Inc.)

#### Chief Regional Officer:

Mr. A. M. Frank, M.C., M.A., 12 Park  
 Crescent, London, W.1

#### Senior Regional Officer (North):

Mr. A. R. M. Edwards, C.B.E., Royal Chambers,  
 Station Parade, Harrogate. Tel.: 69655

#### Development Secretary:

Mr. D. Lancaster-Gaye, 12 Park Crescent,  
 London, W.1.

#### Schools and Centres Secretary:

Mrs. C. A. Clifton, 12 Park Crescent, London,  
 W.1.

#### KEY TO LOCAL GROUPS

T—Treatment Available

E—Education

O—Occupational Centre

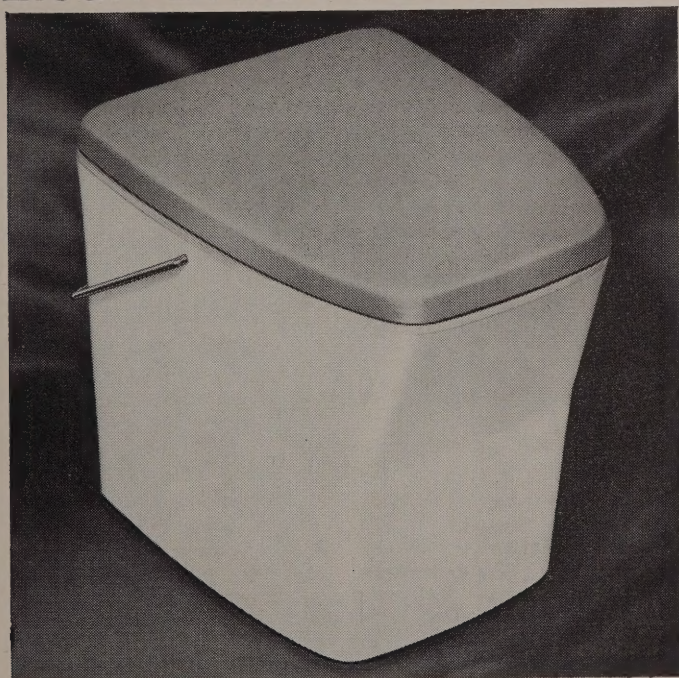
W—Work Centre

H—Holiday Home

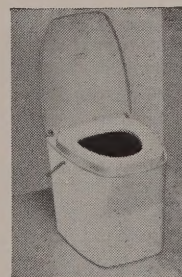
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R—Residential Centre

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(photo courtesy: Glasgow Herald)

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